Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-93-019
Monday
1 February 1993

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FBIS-SOV-93-019 *1 February 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

'Substantial Advances' in Russia-Ukraine Arms Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Ukraine Environment Minister on Removing Strategic Missiles *[INTERFAX]* 1
Draft Agreement Approved on Eliminating Nuclear Arms *[INTERFAX]* 1
Nuclear Weapons' Future Not 'Conclusively Resolved' *[Moscow TV]* 1
Primakov on Proliferation, Iraq, Industrial Espionage *[PRAVDA 29 Jan]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Soyuz TM-15 Descent Vehicle Lands in Kazakhstan *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Jan 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin Holds News Conferences, Ends Indian Visit 4
Addresses Indian Parliament *[Russian TV]* 4
Holds News Conference in Delhi *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Holds 'Joint Press Conference' With Rao *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Praises Roerich for Promoting Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Assesses Results of Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Returns to Moscow *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Program Fulfilled '100 Percent' *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Kozyrev Comments on Relations With India, East *[Moscow Radio]* 15
Interviewed on Yeltsin Visit *[Moscow Radio]* 15
Commentary Welcomes Outcome of Yeltsin Visit *[Moscow International]* 15
North Korea May End IAEA Inspections Because of 'Team Spirit' *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Commentary on 'Team Spirit' *[Moscow International]* 16
Rutskoy, U.S. Vice President Discuss Relations *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
Commentator Views 'Doubts' About New U.S. Administration *[Moscow International]* 17
Arbatov Comments on Russian-U.S. Relations *[Moscow International]* 17
Churkin Comments on Croatia, UN Role, U.S. Stance *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Calls Croatian Offensive 'Illogical' *[Russian TV]* 19
Comments on Canceling Sanctions *[INTERFAX]* 20
Sanctions on Yugoslavia 'Must Be Strictly Implemented' *[IZVESTIYA 30 Jan]* 20

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Officer Arrested for Attempting To Assassinate Yeltsin *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Report Surprises Security *[Radio Rossii]* 22
TASS Updates Investigation *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
To Be 'Medically Examined' *[INTERFAX]* 22
Investigators Begin Inquiries *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Suspect Has 'Positive' Record *[INTERFAX]* 23
Moscow To Make Arms Sales Easier for Manufacturers *[INTERFAX]* 23
First Session of National Salvation Front Ends *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Calls For Anti-Government Action *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
To Establish 'Shadow Cabinet' *[INTERFAX]* 24
Change in Security Council Structure, Skokov Role Detailed *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 30 Jan]* 24
Filatov Interviewed on New Post, Parliament *[Moscow TV]* 25
Chernomyrdin Signs Orders To Raise Prices for Gas *[INTERFAX]* 26
Problems in Privatization Process Noted *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 28 Jan]* 27

Government's Kalinin Addresses Agroconference *[IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]* 28
Economist Criticizes 'Weak' Draft Budget *[IZVESTIYA 29 Jan]* 28
Modified SS-25 To Be Used To Launch Satellite *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Jan]* 29

Supreme Soviet

Leaders Address Supreme Soviet Meetings 28-29 Jan 30
Khasbulatov Speaks on Draft Budget *[Russian TV]* 30
Finance Minister Barchuk's Address *[Russian TV]* 31
Economics Minister Nechayev Questioned *[Russian TV]* 32
Budget Committee Chairman Speaks *[Russian TV]* 33
Highlights of 29 Jan Supreme Soviet Proceedings *[Russian TV]* 34
Resolution on Financing State Spending Adopted *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Decree Says New Tax Rates To Apply Starting 1 Jan *[MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA 30 Jan]* 35
Budget for 1993 Returned to Government for Revision *[INTERFAX]* 35
Khasbulatov for Early Presidential, Parliamentary Elections *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Presidium Supports Proposal *[INTERFAX]* 36
Khasbulatov Not To Run in 1994 *[ITAR-TASS]* 36
Khasbulatov Committed to Proposal *[INTERFAX]* 36
Khasbulatov Fears 'Coup d'Etat Might Be Attempted' *[INTERFAX]* 36

UKRAINE

International Affairs

U.S. Ambassador Says Kiev's Security 'Important' *[INTERFAX]* 37
Visits Black Sea Fleet Base *[Kiev International]* 37
Zlenko Holds Conversation With Warren Christopher *[Kiev International]* 37
Negotiations on Former USSR Foreign Debt Fail *[INTERFAX]* 37
Yukhnovskyy Cited on Talks *[Kiev International]* 38
Official Denies Delivering Oil Products to Serbia *[Kiev TV]* 38
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement *[Kiev International]* 38
More on Statement *[INTERFAX]* 38
U.S. Experts To Monitor Compliance *[Kiev International]* 39
Morozov Visits International Contingent in Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 39
Press Service Condemns Activity of Russian Naval Officers *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 27 Jan]* 39

National Affairs

Rukh Leader Warns Against Rushing START Deal *[INTERFAX]* 39
Kravchuk Addresses Representatives to Rayons *[Kiev International]* 40
Kravchuk Issues Decree on Agrarian Development *[UKRINFORM]* 40
All-Crimean Voters' Movement Holds Extraordinary Congress *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Urges April Independence Referendum *[INTERFAX]* 41
Crimean Tatars Hold Congress; Pro-USSR Rally *[Moscow TV]* 41
Border Troops To Be Increased by 9,000 *[UKRINFORM]* 42
Radar Installation Converted for Civilian Uses *[Kiev International]* 42

WESTERN REGION

Moldova

President Snegur on Official Visit to France *[Moscow Radio]* 43
Snegur, Mitterrand To Sign Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Snegur on Opposition to CIS Integration *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
Further on Parliament Speaker's Resignation 44
Mosanu Explains Reasons *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Mosanu, Other Resignations Viewed *[INTERFAX]* 44
Mosanu Blames 'Pro-Imperial' Forces *[Bucharest Radio]* 45
Foreign Ministry Criticizes Dniester-Abkhaz Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 45

CENTRAL ASIA

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Statement on Jersualem Misinterpreted *[Moscow Radio]* 46
Recognition of Jerusalem Seen as Foreign Policy 'Lapse' *[IZVESTIYA 30 Jan]* 46

Tajikistan

State of Emergency Declared on Afghan Border *[Moscow Radio]* 46
Rakhmonov Cited on Measures *[INTERFAX]* 46
Situation Reported 'Stabilized' *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Opposition Forces Reportedly To Surrender in Ramit *[INTERFAX]* 47
Troops, Opposition Clash; Dushanbe 'Relatively Stable' *[ITAR-TASS]* 47

Turkmenistan

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks With Niyazov *[ITAR-TASS]* 47
Niyazov Cited on Relations *[INTERFAX]* 48
First Round of Talks Held *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Niyazov, Velayati Discuss Ties *[Tehran IRNA]* 48
Velayati Meets Deputies *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Velayati Tours Marv *[Tehran IRNA]* 49
Visit Ends; Agreement Signed *[Tehran IRNA]* 49

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Official Says Karabakh Unaware of New Settlement Proposal *[SNARK]* 51
Karabakh 'Calm'; Captured Pilot Appeals to Yeltsin *[Yerevan Radio]* 51
Night Patrols Provide Security *[Yerevan Radio]* 51
Fighting Updated; Region 'Peaceful' *[Yerevan Radio]* 51
Defense Ministry Holds News Conference *[Moscow TV]* 52
Russian, Armenian Servicemen Swear Military Oath *[ITAR-TASS]* 52

Azerbaijan

Explosion at Rayon School Kills 19, Wounds 32 *[AZERTAC]* 52
Government Reports 2 Armenian Helicopters 'Downed' *[INTERFAX]* 53
Battlefront Situation Detailed *[Baku Radio]* 53
Helicopter Shot Down; Clashes Intensify *[Baku Radio]* 53
Further on Helicopter; Clashes *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Elchibey Interested in 'Extensive' Ties With Israel *[INTERFAX]* 53

Georgia

Government Requests UN Troops To Patrol Border *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Shevardnadze on Russian Role in UN Resolutions *[INTERFAX]* 54
Shevardnadze Criticizes Commission on South Ossetia *[INTERFAX]* 54
Troop Issues, Withdrawal Discussed With Russian Military *[Moscow TV]* 55
Temporary Gas Pipeline To Armenia Restored *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Foreign Minister Denounces Abkhazia-Dniester Agreement *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Abkhazian Defense Ministry Reports on 'Skirmishes' *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Volunteers Ready To Fight Georgians in Abkhazia *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 55
Military Command Reports New Clashes in Abkhazia *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Talks on Exchange of POWs Held; Sukhumi Shelled *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Defense Ministry Reports Relative Calm in Abkhazia *[INTERFAX]* 56
Firing Continues in Abkhazia Conflict *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Russian Flight Refused Permission To Fly to Tkvarcheli *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Officials Agree on Tkvarcheli Aid *[ITAR-TASS]* 57

Helicopters Land, Evacuate Wounded *[INTERFAX]* 57
Aid to Abkhazia Suspended *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Ethnic Problems End Flights *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Talks on Tkvarcheli Aid Continue *[INTERFAX]* 58
Helicopters Not Allowed To Land in Sukhumi *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
'Technical Reasons' Cited *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Military Grants Permission for Flights *[ITAR-TASS]* 59

'Substantial Advances' in Russia-Ukraine Arms Talks

LD2801191693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1722 GMT 28 Jan 93

[ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Ryabikin and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Jan—"The talks were fairly difficult. However, what is satisfying is that, apart from an exchange of views and an elucidation of a wide range of questions, we have managed to make fairly substantial advances," roving Ambassador Yuriy Dubinin stated. He headed the Russian delegation at the Russian-Ukrainian talks, which have ended in Kiev. Upon his return from Ukraine's capital, at an ITAR-TASS correspondent's request, he commented on the results of these talks today.

According to the leader of the Russian delegation, a considerable amount of work was done on the text of the agreement on carrying out warranty work and manufacturers' supervision [raboty po garantiynomu I avtorskomu nadzoru] of the running of the missile complexes of the strategic nuclear forces. Much work was done in search of methods and in discussing various options of dismantling, transporting, and destroying the nuclear warheads and elements of the nuclear complexes of the strategic nuclear forces deployed in Ukraine, including issues of the processing of nuclear components.

Even though this is a very complicated area, Yuriy Dubinin noted, we are groping toward elements of mutual understanding in these matters, and this has led to setting up working groups that will deal with these problems in specific terms.

"We hope," the ambassador said, "for new meetings, and in the very near future at that." He noted that this work is extremely crucial, since its results will determine how quickly a path will be opened to real disarmament and to turning into reality everything that has been achieved under the START I treaty, the Lisbon protocol, and the entire package of obligations relating to these documents.

Ukraine Environment Minister on Removing Strategic Missiles

OW3001140693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Environment Protection Minister Yuriy Kostenko on Friday [29 January] told reporters in Kiev that the removal of the strategic missiles stationed on the republic's territory is an extremely complicated task since it involves very serious ecological, political, and economic problems.

He said the boosters' fuel is highly toxic and it is still unclear what should be done with it.

He said that, at Ukrainian-Russian talks held in Irpen near Kiev a few days ago, ways were found to bring forward the ratification of the START I treaty. Kostenko, who headed the Ukrainian delegation at the talks, said the Russian delegation promised to present to Ukraine, within a month, proposals for ways of eliminating or utilizing the combat components of nuclear weapons stationed in Ukraine.

Draft Agreement Approved on Eliminating Nuclear Arms

OW2901144493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Government has approved the draft agreement with Germany on assistance in the elimination of Russia's nuclear and chemical weapons. This draft document was coordinated with German experts and presented by the Russian Foreign and Defence Ministries, the Ministry for Atomic Energy and the president's Committee for the Conventional Problems of Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons.

According to this document, Germany will give Russia free assistance in the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons in Russia.

In line with the Russian Government's resolution of December 17, following finalization, the agreement will be signed by the Russian minister for atomic energy.

Nuclear Weapons' Future Not 'Conclusively Resolved'

PM2901123393 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Jan 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Video of snowy landscape, camouflaged missile positions, missile shaft.] The fate of the former Union's nuclear weapons is an issue which is troubling many people in the world today, an issue which was discussed in Minsk, and an issue which, essentially, has not been conclusively resolved.

The question of the CIS nuclear weapons has assumed particular importance now, after the signing of the START II Treaty. The treaty itself may remain a scrap of paper unless the problems of conflicting interests in the nuclear missiles of the former Union are resolved. This was the main topic at a news conference given today by Marshal Shaposhnikov. [passage omitted]

Primakov on Proliferation, Iraq, Industrial Espionage

PM2901162593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 93 p 3

[Report by diplomatic observer Sergey Svistunov: "There Could Be a Nuclear Brain Drain from... the United States"]

[Text] "Keeping tabs on the specialists left without jobs in the nuclear arms sphere is a global rather than just a Russian

problem," [Foreign Service Intelligence Chief] Yevgeniy Primakov told a press conference. It was held to present "the first-ever open report in the intelligence service's history," entitled "A New Challenge after the Cold War: The Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction." Acording to experts' forecasts, by the year 2000 more than one-half the 30,000 people curently engaged in this field in the United States will be out of a job, "will be made redundant." And they could perfectly well serve the interests of "near-nuclear" countries (those, that is, on the threshold of possessing nuclear weapons), which have the relevant nuclear programs but do not as yet possess adequate intellectual potential to create weapons.

Primakov flatly rejected reports about "Soviet specialists working on improving Egyptian missiles," "nuclear scientists from the CIS who have gone to Iran and Iraq," and so forth, describing them as "press intrigues." We carefully checked the "facts" and the names dished up by the press, but none of the information stood up at all, although it is agreed that such a threat does exist and that "it is essential to ensure that normal living conditions are enjoyed by this small number of people."

The Foreign Intelligence Service chief also made it known that a broader approach to the problem of preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction is required, exemplifying this by the stance adopted by the Arab countries, which have not signed the convention on chemical weapons, citing the fact that Israel has chemical weapons. During the press conference he repeatedly stressed that it is time to jettison the "double standard" which divides states keen to acquire nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction "into friendly and nonfriendly." However, he was forced to acknowledge that not all members of the "nuclear club" are ready to abandon such a dualistic view. He intimated that the tough Congressional amendments passed against Pakistan in 1981 were subsequently eased precisely because Pakistan's value as a state friendly to the United States significantly increased after the commitment of Soviet troops to Afghanistan.

(But here, of course, the following question does arise: Given that the United States is retaining and multiplying its strategic allies and partners, is it not premature for Russia to abandon its own commitments of alliance so categorically? If only in respect of India, faced as it is by Pakistan, which is "friendly to the United States" and displays every sign of possessing the atom bomb?—S.S).

Let me now quote Primakov's most interesting replies to journalists' questions:

Regarding "Zhirinovskiy's volunteers": "It looked like a farce. The visit by those 10 men wearing berets is not going to increase Saddam Husayn's military potential."

Regarding "red mercury": "Scientists from the Russian Academy of Sciences maintain that it does not actually exist. Deals involving so-called 'red mercury' serve as a means whereby mafia structures which are working together launder 'dirty money,' including income derived from the drugs trade. In reality it is precious metals and other elements which are circulating under the guise of 'red mercury.'"

Regarding "Iraq's military potential": "It has been created mainly thanks to Western firms, particularly German ones... But it is we who get the blame."

Regarding the Foreign Intelligence Service's activeness in the sphere of industrial espionage: "In our terminology, this is scientific and technical intelligence... According to U.S. sources, more than 30 states are actively engaged in it at the present time."

Soyuz TM-15 Descent Vehicle Lands in Kazakhstan

LD0102051093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0434 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Feb—The descent vehicle of the "Soyuz TM-15" spaceship has just completed soft landing in Kazakhstan. Anatoliy Solovyev and Sergey Avdeyev, members of the 12th long-term mission, have returned to Earth. They have spent almost six months in the "Mir" orbital complex.

Gennadiy Manakov and Aleksandr Poleshchuk, their successors who arrived at the station on 26 January, continue their work.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 30 Jan

LD3001065993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0558 GMT 30 Jan 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 30 ITAR-TASS—Newspapers focus their attention today on the results of the official visit of President Boris Yeltsin to India.

"Moscow and New Delhi are pleased with each other," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. It stresses Yeltsin's words that "relations with India are a key direction of Russia's foregn policy."

PRAVDA points out that the Russian president formulated the principles of a new stage of Russian-Indian relations as "the allegiance of both countries to democracy, trust and openness, the large scope of cooperation, healthy pragmatism in politics and economy, the removal of ideology and excessive rhetoric from bilateral relations, direct ties between partners and the large- scale drawing of private capital and private initiative into the sphere of economic relations." Touching upon the documents signed during the visit, PRAVDA quotes the words published by the influential newspaper TIMES OF INDIA, which stressed that those documents "are laying a solid foundation for the entirely new relations between Russia and India."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA calls attention to problems of military- technological cooperation that were discussed during the visit. It stresses that "the agreement on military-technological cooperation, signed by the two countries, is profitable for both of them." At the same time, it stresses that "it is not directed against any third country. It should help India uphold its freedom and sovereignty." according to the newspaper, the results of the Russian-Indian meeting create an opportunity for the two countries to play a new positive role in the consolidation of international stability.

The press gives wide coverage to the visit of General John Shalikashvili, commander of the NATO allied forces in Europe, to Russia. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an interview with General Shalikashvili and stresses his words that there is a good foundation for the effective development of relations between Russia and NATO in the military sphere. Shalikashvili expressed hope for "joint professional training of peacekeeping units in the future."

Commenting on Shalikashvili's visit to Russia in an article entitled "NATO extending hand of friendship to Russia", NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points to a possibility of holding in the future joint military exercises of NATO and Russian units. The newspaper points out in this connection that "in the opinion of NATO, strong Russia is the central link capable of restoring stability in the CIS member states, in the first place." It also stresses the words of General Shalikashvili that "we should build together stable and peaceful Europe."

PRAVDA carries a critical article about the continuing inflation in Russia. The newspaper openly accuses the president's authority of it, believing it is to blame for the continuing growth of prices and the absence of any stabilisation on the domestic market.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA, quoting the information of the Russian security ministry, warns against the growing activity of foreign intelligence services in Russia. The newspaper quotes Major General Andrey Chernenko, head of the public relations centre at the Russian security ministry, as saying that in the current situation "foreign representatives, among whom there are many intelligence officers, have practically boundless access both to the bodies of power and management on various levels and to the places where the top state and military secrets are concentrated."

Yeltsin Holds News Conferences, Ends Indian Visit

Addresses Indian Parliament

LD2901145893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1121 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Speech by President Boris Yeltsin to the Indian Parliament in New Delhi on 29 January—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a great honor for me to speak in this historic hall, which is historic for India and consequently for the whole world, all the more so because I am addressing the esteemed representatives of the people of India. I convey to you the warmest and most sincere feelings which the people of the Russian Federation feel for your country.

Profound changes are taking place in the life of Russia, but I assure you that our citizens continue to carefully preserve in their hearts deep goodwill toward India and its people. [applause]

Time has no power over this. We learn about your country in our early childhood. I personally learned about India in my early childhood. And later, throughout our whole lives we carry in our hearts a pure image of a kind and mysterious India, the country of wonders and ancient legends. Now that I am here, I am discovering with surprise how accurate this childhood image was. The Russian artist Duke (Aleksey Saltykov) was indeed right when he wrote: To be able to convey all the unique beauty of India, every person should have 100 eyes and 100 hands.

Your country has indeed made an invaluable contribution to the treasure house of world civilization and has endowed mankind with brilliant thinkers and heroes, outstanding politicians, figures of culture and science. Without them, the whole modern world would have a much poorer understanding of such fundamental values as humanity, morality, tolerance, nonviolence, justice, and many others.

It is significant that these radical issues were also a central concern of major Russian thinkers. The depth of wisdom they attained is ready proof of the fact that Indian and Russian cultures, which differ so much, are common in their main features and essence. This is the most interesting point. Do you agree? [applause]

West and East, North and South converge, they comprehend themselves and each other by grasping the mystery of human existence and the meaning of life. India's appeal is not only in the bright colors of its nature. One can see these bright colors even from here! It has great culture and glorious historical traditions.

India does not only have an impressive past, but it has an equally impressive present. Your country and people have once and for all overturned the deep-rooted stereotype which presumes that the principles of democracy work only in conditions of European civilization. India is the world's major democratic federative state, a great state and power. Your experience shows that freedom, democracy, and human rights belong to universal values. [applause]

These values are not the property of any one country or continent, but of the whole world. Russia is today striving to reaffirm them in its own life. We are in the process of radical change, and it is extremely important for us to keep the country on the rails of peaceful reforms, and to maintain stability and interethnic accord. That is why we find nothing academic or abstract in the question of how, despite all the difficulties, your country still finds a balance between different interests, despite the exceptionally scattered nature of its regional peculiarities, its traditions, cultures, languages, and religions, and how it maintains unity in diversity, to use Nehru's words. This has become a formula for us, for Russia. [applause]

Moreover, it remains firmly devoted to democratic guidelines. Your experience of constructive interaction between all branches of power—something we have yet to gain control over—is of fundamental importance to us, and it is that which determines the day-to-day work of India's state bodies. Today we clearly recognize that it will not be easy to achieve this.

The principle of the separation of powers does not become established automatically. We are firmly convinced that it can only be implemented in a democratic way. But democracy is not a secret agreement between leaders or state institutions, concluded behind the people's backs. On the contrary, it is the people that must have the main role and the last word in deciding questions on which the fate of the country depends. [applause]

The Indian model of a mixed economy is also of great practical interest to Russia. It is an amazing fusion of various forms of ownership and free enterprise, of traditions thousands of years old and modern ways. That is what is being fused, as it were, into a single whole in one country. This model has great potential for internal dynamics and reform. Contemplating the destiny of India, Indira Gandhi wrote: We could have opted for tradition, or we could have totally rejected it. But we chose the hardest road—the road of harnessing the old and the new. That is the main thing. [applause]

The experience of reform Russia has already gained to some extent convinces us that any other choice would be a fatal error. This is a rule not only for India, but for any country. There are no exceptions. I think the main guarantee of the success of Russia's reforms lies primarily within ourselves, in mobilization through ownership. We are carrying out transformations in a country in which people have in effect forgotten, over the previous seven decades, what private property is and what political pluralism is, and in which for all of these years the authorities tried to cut the people to fit the clothing and not to cut the cloth to fit the people.

A vast price was paid for creating a superpower which had no equal for military might. But the ordinary citizens were no happier for this. After millions of people had died and after the life of several generations had been ruined, we came to understand that our country was at a dead-end.

One of the heroes of Rabindranath Tagore's novel "The Home and the World" asserted that to commit violence on

behalf of one's homeland means to commit violence against one's homeland, and the example of our own homeland, Russia, has convinced us of this. These words say it all; there is simply nothing to add to them.

There is only one way out of the impasse: transformations and reforms. This is happening in India, too. We are consistently implementing them, for we understand that there is no alternative. It is not only for Russia that the transformations there are important; they have a global, worldwide context.

Today, on the threshold of the third millennium, the whole of world civilization is going through an epoch of cardinal changes. A line has been drawn under the period of the Cold War. The confrontation between the great powers has ended. The whole system of coordinates of world politics is changing. Today the meaning of the concept of a world power is undergoing radical renewal. And even if this is not so at present, in 10 or 15 years time it will be defined not by the quantity of strategic nuclear warheads but by the prosperity of people, the richness of traditions and culture, the spiritual health of the people, and by the intensity of links with the states of the world community.

Mankind has a real chance of subordinating international relations to the rules of harmony. Clearly, this most difficult task will already require the efforts of another generation, not ours perhaps, but these efforts will be repaid a hundredfold. The main thing is that the threat which brought irrepressible anxiety to our world in the second half of the 20th century will be consigned to the past forever. I have in mind the threat of a world nuclear catastrophe. By signing the Russian-U.S. START II Treaty, the process of nuclear disarmament [as heard] is being reduced and eliminated by two thirds. In other words, earth's inhabitants will have no real worries about the possibility of all forms of life on Earth being wiped out. [applause]

Of course, it becomes even more important to tighten the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Because we are realists, we understand that today's world is very far from perfect. There is too much evil and cruelty, violence and intolerance, a lot of conflicts, primarily on religious and ethnic grounds. Over the last few years, mankind has shuddered more than once over new tragic evidence of the blind cruelty which they breed. We have seen once again the depth and painfulness of the wounds inflicted on individuals and entire peoples by these feuds. We have seen once again the extent to which the world community can be helpless when it underrates their danger.

Today as never before we need the ability to remember, to remember in particular the catastrophic consequences of Messianic ambitions to transform the world at any price. This is especially dangerous now when mutual intolerance and ethnic and religious strife can be backed by means of destruction of unprecedented power.

The question arises what, in that case, will happen to countries where various people live together, dozens and hundreds at times, and where various religions exist? Russia has 130 nations and nationalities. What will then happen to peace? After all, most people on this planet live in multinational and multireligious states. Reason refuses to indulge in apocalyptic pictures. Reason demands that such scenarios are ruled out.

I am convinced that mankind, modern man, has enough strength and possibilities to throw such scenarios out for eternity and to give them the status of anti-Utopia. That is the only way. [applause]

I want to say with all the emphasis at my disposal that I am a resolute opponent of any attempts to make use of your country's unresolved problems for mercenary political purposes. [applause] I assure you that we do not differ on this question within our Russian leadership, none of us does. Russia adheres firmly to the moral values of world civilization. After all we have experienced, the truth has a very clearly defined dimension for us. Enmity can never be destroyed by enmity. This has never happened in history and it will never happen. You can not destroy enmity by enmity. Violence will not put a halt to violence. The firmest foundation of security and stability is compromise.

Yesterday Prime Minister Rao and I spent a long time trying to find a compromise because there have been some problems between us, and we found this compromise. Gradually, minute after minute, hour after hour, for four hours, by bringing our positions closer, we reached a compromise and cut the knot. [applause]

I think the victory of yesterday's compromise will be more significant than we can now imagine for making our relations more dynamic and our cooperation in all fields—in politics, social sphere, economy, military-technical field, culture, science, education etc.—more beneficial. I am sure of this. Needless to say, our country does not intend to make unjustified unilateral concessions or to sacrifice its vital interests, as we have made sacrifices for seven decades. It is our policy to develop interstate ties on an equal, mutually beneficial basis, through respect for one another's positions. There is no rational alternative to this, nor will there be.

Today, Asia, like the West, is one of Russia's foreign policy priorities. And that is very important. Finding the right balance after the abandonment of discrimination and overcoming ideological narrow-mindedness are the main guidelines in our Asian policy.

Russia is a Eurasian country. Incidentally, of our 17 million square km, over 10 million square km. are in Asia so it is necessary to think about who to deal with. [laughter]

We are sometimes criticized for having a Western orientation. But I would ask you to understand Russia. First of all, we had to agree with the United States on the destruction of nuclear weapons, to lay the foundation for peace everywhere on earth, throughout the world, and then, proceeding from that, to develop equitable relations on a bilateral basis with other states, balancing the interests of East and West. That is our position. I think you are bound to support it. [applause]

Our national interests and traditions—indeed, our very geopolitical situation—make it inevitable that our country

should maintain a permanent presence precisely in this part of the Asian part of the world. However, we are in favor of this presence being first and foremost a peaceful, business-like, and partner-like presence, a partner-like presence. We do not at present regard anyone in Asia as even a potential adversary of ours; we see only partners, and we see friendship with India. [applause]

The potential for Russia's bilateral cooperation with Asian countries is truly enormous. The more fully we succeed in bringing it into play, the more benefits it will yield to each individual country, to the continent of Asia, and to the whole world.

For Russia, relations with India have an importance all of their own, an importance that is not transient. Their history is full of events, but never have they been darkened by any serious friction, to say nothing of contradictions, or wars.

Every period in mutual relations between our great countries has its value and is precious for us, first of all because during all this time there has been a continuous enrichment of our ties, and an invaluable experience of communication between the states, the peoples and individuals has been accumulated.

Yesterday we signed the Russian-Indian Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation. There was a similar treaty between the former Soviet Union and India. We do not want to criticize it, but time goes by, and reality changes. India's and Russia's foreign policies are changing and becoming more up to date, and therefore this treaty is more up to date. It responds to today's interests of both the Indian and Russian peoples. Our mutual desire is to apply more pragmatism to bilateral relations and to free them from ideological emotion.

We are firmly pursuing deideologisation in all spheres of life: in politics, economics, the social sphere, and in any other sphere. And the fact that we also signed an agreement on military-technical cooperation yesterday does not mean that it is directed against a third country. It is aimed at assisting India to protect its sovereignty, its independence, its integrity, and its unity. [applause]

Our predecessors have left us a worthy legacy. Our common task is to preserve and increase everything that is good and useful in Russian-Indian cooperation, the high potential of mutual trust and amicability accumulated by the peoples of our countries. I am confident that it will never be necessary to put the issue of the need to strengthen friendship and cooperation with India to a nationwide referendum in Russia, never! There is no doubt about that and will never be! Friendship was, is, and will always be! [applause]

Our states' fundamental interests coincide. Both our countries firmly adhere to democratic principles. Both our countries deeply wish to ensure that the beneficial tendencies in today's world do not go into reverse. Both our countries are equally interested in strengthening each other's stability and territorial integrity, and we firmly and unswervingly support India's position on Kashmir. [applause]

A change in relations between India and China took shape recently. The inertia born by decades of mutual suspicion is being overcome. Russia looks very favorably on these beneficial changes between two neighbors, especially as we ourselves lacked understanding with China for 35 years. It was only during the Russian president's last visit that we decided to be friends with China. [applause] Russian-Chinese contacts are also taking on new qualities.

In this connection, I would like to stress that the strengthening of the dialogue between Russia and China does not mean that our country is facing some sort of choice. Russian-Chinese relations are part of the overall trend of our Asian policy. The principle of squeezing some other country out of it is absolutely unacceptable, and I state this before you here with all authority.

The mutual trust, good-neighborliness, and deeply peaceful intentions of three of Asia's largest states could become a powerful stabilizing factor, not only in Asia but also on a world scale. We highly assess India's efforts to strengthen the atmosphere of trust and stability in southern Asia. We are sure that they will increase. This is all the more important in that this region is literally stifled by territorial, political, economic, religious, and interethnic contradictions tied together in a tight knot.

Like the rest of the world community, Russia hopes for the normalization of Indian-Pakistan relations. We will welcome any steps towards a mutually acceptable settlement of these. Should it be necessary, we are prepared to render India and Pakistan assistance in a form which suits both sides. But we do not intend to give Pakistan any military-technical aid. [applause]

Esteemed friends, literally every hour of the Russian delegation's stay in India has been extremely full and productive. In many respects, we are once again discovering India for ourselves, since not a single member of our delegation has ever been here. With our own eyes we can see how much progress India has made over the years of independence. I want to congratulate you on the fact that two days ago you celebrated what is in truth your great holiday, Republic Day, the day of your independence which was proclaimed in this hall. [applause]

With all my heart, and on behalf of the whole of Russia, I wish prosperity for your ancient and surprisingly modern country. Thank you. [applause]

Holds News Conference in Delhi

LD2901191093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Zaytsev: "Transcript of Boris Yeltsin's News Conference"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Delhi, 29 Jan (TASS)— Here is the statement by President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, as well as his answers to questions, as delivered at a news conference in Delhi:

Esteemed Journalists, Ladies and Gentlemen: The first official visit by a president of the Russian Federation to

India is drawing to a close. As far as its results are concerned, I am very, very satisfied. This is despite the fact that preparations for the visit were made in difficult conditions. There has, unfortunately, been a protracted hiatus, as it were, in relations between Russia and India. Yesterday the leaders of India, including Prime Minister Rao, and myself ended this hiatus. This makes us hopeful that no later than the end of this year we can embark on a phase in which we can make our cooperation and our relations more dynamic.

During the hiatus, which to all intents and purposes lasted three years, substantial political changes have taken place. There was a time when alliances and allies chose themselves not by the natural parameters of mutual advantage and national interests, but by the principle of community or proximity of ideologies. We have left all this behind us.

Today Russia's new foreign policy is based on a principle which is accepted throughout the civilized world—a sensible balance of political vectors, the priority of national interests, observance of the legitimate interests of partners, and rigorous compliance with international undertakings, especially those which involve human rights.

These days, from the point of view of geopolitical morality and common sense, Russia and India are closer to each other in world politics than ever before. When people tell me that this is an era of special relations between Russia and India, I respond by saying that a new relationship is beginning, one which is truly healthy, devoid of political cunning or political nudge and wink. This is a relationship of friendship, natural and sincere friendship, a relationship of cooperation and trust.

Our countries have never been involved in military or territorial conflict with each other. Our peoples and our politicians have a great accumulated wealth of political good will and diplomatic traditions. Finally, and perhaps most important: As a result of the great changes that have taken place since August 1991, Russia is partaking of democracy and becoming a democratic state like india. Thus we shall now be united not only be geopolitical interests, not only by history, but also by our common democratic activities.

It is no secret that in the last few years a few difficulties have arisen even between the former Union and India. they have been mainly economic. It would be in the highest degree shortsighted to view the outlook for the development of our relations through the prism of temporary problems.

In its policy with India, Russia starts from the premise that your country is one of the outposts of democracy in the Asian and Pacific region. You will already have noticed that Russia intends to have a strong Eastern policy. We are constantly accused of having a pro-Western policy. Well, we have not: we have a pro-Eastern policy. With the United States we had to solve the problems of the global destruction of strategic and other nuclear armaments, and only then set about creating a balanced policy between East and West.

No strong Eastern policy is possible without India or without taking into consideration India's interests, its global weight, and its authority. Our Eastern policy, therefore, just like our Western policy, is oriented toward an outlook free of blocs. We are not in favor of blocs, triangles, or polygons. We are for bilateral relations between states, based on equal rights and corresponding to each other's interests.

In our plans to deepen Indian-Russian cooperation we proceed from an awareness that in the past few decades India has achieved great success in many spheres, including the spheres of science and technology. We are ready at the present time to cooperate as before with India—cooperate, not assist. This terminology is new and of fundamental importance.

Very great interest is evoked by the issue of military cooperation between Russia and India. Proceeding on the basis that every country is entitled to defense and guarantees of lasting security Russia and India have signed an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation. Like everyone else in the present-day world we wish to sell armaments on normal terms. We have no secrets from others. In the military sphere we have traditions and we have links, and we do not want to destroy tried and tested links.

Yesterday I also had a conversation with the prime minister and I assured him that the agreement which we had signed on cryogenic engines will definitely be fulfilled by us, despite pressure from other countries.

In developing relations with India we follow the principles stemming from the adherence of our two countries to democracy. This means trust and openness, large-scale cooperation, healthy pragmatism in politics and economics, the purging of ideology from politics, direct links between partners, the extensive development of cooperation with private capital, and, finally, friendship between our peoples—a friendship which has existed, does exist, and will exist.

I am ready to answer questions.

[Unidentified correspondent] What are the priorities of the new Eastern policy?

[Yeltsin] Russia is a Eurasian country. A large part of the territory of Russia is situated in Asia. Much is already dec ided by this factor alone. We have to take into account both Western and Eastern politics. The Russian emblem shows a double-headed eagle. One head looked East, the other West. Our contacts with the United States were justified from the point of view that we had to give a strong impulse to nuclear arms destruction, to calm the world on this basis, and then pursue a balanced policy. Now, visits to South Korea, China, and India, especially to China and India—to countries which decide policy not only in Asia but in the whole world. Our position and policy is to develop relations. Incidentally, India and Russia have huge resources which, as it were, complement each other and are needed by each other. We have what India does not have enough of, and vice versa. So our trade and business cooperation—I met business groups yesterday—will, I am sure, develop extremely dynamically. Last year bilateral goods turnover was just $1.5 billion. This year it will reach $2.5 - $3.5 billion. That, I should say, is a modest estimate. There are

other Asian and Pacific countries as well, that will pay attention to our warm relations and to what we have managed to conserve.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is Russia's approach to the Kashmir problem?

[Yeltsin] Russia's position is precise and clear. I spoke about this today in the parliament building, during the meeting with members of parliament and public figures. I spoke about this with Mr. Rao as well. Our policy is firm: India must be whole, must be unified and indivisible, and we will support the Indian position with relation to Kashmir. In what way can we help—we can be thinking about that now. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and also of other world political organizations, we will be constantly implementing this line. India has right on its side here, and we too will be adopting political measures.

Of course, we would like to have the same relations with Pakistan as well, and we would not like relations with Pakistan to be undermined because of this issue. There are, however, some notions of principle which we cannot go against—we cannot go against common sense, and this is indeed common sense.

[Unidentified correspondent] The present treaty is called the treaty on friendship and cooperation, and the former treaty, from 1971, was called the treaty on peace, friendship, and cooperation. Does this change of name mean that the importance of strategic security in relations with India is diminishing?

[Yeltsin] No, it does not mean that. In the first place, yesterday we signed an agreement on military and technical cooperation with India. We will develop this military and technical cooperation. Our relations with allies—I mean the agreements—are not directed at harming a third country. We will help India. We will sell the war materiel and spare parts which it needs to defend its sovereignty and security.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is Russia ready to support India's desire to become a permament member of the UN Security Council?

[Yeltsin] This is a difficult question, not because I do not support India, but because Russia is a young member of the UN Security Council. On the whole, the principles on which the Security Council is formed must be analyzed. Is it by the number of nuclear warheads? No, of course not. By the size of a country, its population, the richness of its traditions, culture and spirituality, its material well-being. This question must be studied. Frankly speaking, I am not prepared to formulate the question so directly. Although, of course, if this question is discussed, I will vote "yes".

[Unidentified correspondent] What possible mechanism is there for settling the differences between India and Pakistan in connection with the Kashmir problem?

[Yeltsin] I think that just as there is in Europe the Vienna Center for averting conflicts, so there must be such a center for resolving conflicts in which all the countries of the Asia and Pacific region would be involved. Russia is ready to make its contribution to organizng such a center. We may consult as to where it will be situated, naturally enough, not in Russia, but somewhere in India or China, another country. I think, however, that only in such a way, and not by military means, can any country be helped today.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could you please say a few words about the difference between the special relationship of the former USSR with India and the present ties between Russia and India?

[Yeltsin] A brief news conference does not give one the opportunity to speak about this in detail. The special relations between the former Soviet Union and India have in many aspects determined the rate of cooperation. In general India was considered as a counterbalance to the United States and China. We should not try to hide it. This is clear. Because of that today Russia does not want to play the so-called Indian card against "world imperialism" and Chinese hegemonism, as it used to be known . Russia does not want it and will not do it. There will not be the same type of special relations as we had before.

[Unidentified correspondent] Does Russia intend to fulfill its obligations on delivery of cryogenic engines to India and if so, will it have an impact on Russia's relations with the West?

[Yeltsin] We signed the agreement with India and it would be a shame before the whole world not to fulfill this agreement. That is why Russia will fulfill the agreement on the delivery of cryogenic engines. Whether some measures from the United States will follow in this connection and what kind of measures, all depends on the prudence and common sense of the United States. We have already spoken with President Clinton; we shall speak about this as well. But Russia will not step back.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is the Russian president aware of the facts which were reported by Primakov, the head of Russian foreign intelligence, showing that both India and Pakistan already possess nuclear weapons? Is Russia ready to sell training aircraft to India?

[Yeltsin] I am not aware of such information being issued by Russian foreign intelligence. It would not have issued such information without consulting me. In any case it would have informed me first as regards Pakistan.

As far as training aircraft are concerned, talks on this are under way.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could you give us some more details of the accord on the relationship of the ruble and the rupee?

[Yeltsin] I will not go into the technical details of that. I will only note that yesterday, after several hours of talks, we came to an agreement on this issue. There remained only one small detail. The final variant was only agreed upon, after very prolonged work, at 0200 today. There are no further problems or barriers of any kind blocking the development of bilateral cooperation. All the questions concerning mutual payments have been solved.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is Russia's attitude to the sanctions against Yugoslavia?

[Yeltsin] We are now more reserved in our attitude to these sanctions, especially regarding certain measures in the military sphere with respect to Yugoslavia. This question will be discussed by the Security Council. For now it is difficult to say, but nevertheless our position is now that methods of force do not at present solve problems anywhere in the world. Force gives rise more and more confrontation, more and more tension, and so we must look for a solution by political means.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is it not the case that the president's words regarding Russia's strict fulfillment of all its obligations toward India contradict the real state of things, in particular where oil is concerned?

[Yeltsin] In my speeches, when talking about the obligations of the Russian side, cryogenic engines alone were at issue. I can name dozens of different products in which there has been a shortfall in our deliveries. Well, there is now a transitional period in our country, production is falling. Unfortunately, this is a fact and it will continue in 1993 and we reckon that the economy will begin to stabilize only toward the end of the year.

Now as for oil. In the first place, we did not discuss this question at all. Such a situation evolved. But I think that the esteemed prime minister of India knows well the whole mechanism of this question. It's nothing to do with Russia, but with Iraq. The fact of the matter is that the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on Iraq and on deliveries of oil from Iraq, and we did not deliver oil directly because it is impossible to take oil from Russia to India. Its transportation will be dearer than the oil itself. Therefore, we delivered some to Iraq, and Iraq delivered this oil to India. Iraq was banned from delivering this oil. Now India itself is to seek another re-exporter of this oil, or we ourselves are ready to participate in this. Saudi Arabia, the Emirates or any other country could be such a re-exporter. This is the only solution to this. It is not a matter of Russia lacking discipline.

There are dozens of countries in the world who do not repay their debts to us at all, while India is repaying its debts, albeit under certain conditions.

Holds 'Joint Press Conference' With Rao

LD3001205993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi January 30 TASS—The following is the text of the transcript of the joint press conference of the president of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and the prime minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao held here on Friday:

Press adviser to the prime minister: Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of all of us present here, let me extend a hearty welcome to our dignitaries, His Excellency Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation and the honourable prime minister of India, Shri V.P. Narasimha Rao.

The time allotted for this press conference is about forty minutes. First, may I request our honoured guest, His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin, to make a statement which will be followed by a statement of the honourable prime minister of India? Then we can have the questions and answers.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: Friends, this is the first visit by the president of the Russian Federation to India.

May I just draw some preliminary conclusions? I can tell you that I am quite satisfied with the results of this visit.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin (continued): Actually preparations for this visit preceded in rather difficult conditions. In fact, the relationship between Russia and India passed through a difficult phase in the last three years.

Now, yesterday, together with the political leaders of India, particularly, with Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao, we have put an end to this phase. This makes us hopeful that from now on, we are entering a new phase marked by dynamism in our calculations and relations.

In the earlier phase, in the last three years, in Russia and India, and in the rest of the world, we have seen very radical political changes. We have put an end to that period when allies and alliances were not for mutual benefit or national interests, but based on the principles of commonality of proximity of ideologies. We have put this period behind us.

The Russian foreign policy is the best standard accepted throughout the world, that is, reasonable balance of political power, promotion of national interests, compliance with regional interests, and strict compliance with international commitments, especially those concerning human rights.

Today, from the point of view of political morality and commonsense, Russia and India, in world politics, stand to each other as they were never before. When I am asked by people whether the period of special relationship between India and Russia has come to a close, I reply to them by saying that we are now entering a new phase of relationship, not a relationship with any political hypocrisy, but a natural, friendly relationship, based on common interests and calculations.

Our two countries have never been engaged in any war, or, in any military conflict with each other. Our people and our political leaders have gained enormous political experience and political goodwill. It is a matter of tradition. Finally—this is most important—as a result of the changes which occurred in Russia after August, 1991—I am sure, all are quite familiar with those events—Russia has become a democracy. It has become a democratic country, along with the lines of India. That is, we will, from now on, be bound not only by geo-political interests and history, but by shared political traditions. I would not conceal from you that in the past three years, there developed between India and the former Soviet Union some difficulties, which, mostly, related to the economic field, but it would be excessively

myopic to view the prospects of our relationship from the angle of political difficulties. Especially since we resolved yesterday jointly with Mr. Rao all these difficulties. It took us just one day to do so. In our policy towards India, Russia believes that your country is one of the best partners in peace in Asia and the Pacific. Perhaps, you have already noticed that we intend to have a purposeful Asian policy. Now we have shifted to toeing the eastern tilt. In the first phase we had to resolve jointly with the United States the problem of global elimination of the strategic and other arms following which we could proceed to a balanced policy between the east and the West. Of course, a purposeful eastern policy would not be possible with India standing as a great power. Our eastern policy, as our Western policy, is aimed at a prospect that would be devoid of blocs. We are against axis, we are against triangles and multi-angles. We are against blocs, but we are for equitable and just relationships that would serve the interests of our two countries and of other countries as well. Our plan to expand further the Russian-Indian cooperation will profit from the fact that in the past decades India has secured big gains in many areas, including in the area of science and technology. At this point we are prepared to continue our cooperation with India: Not to assist India, but to cooperate with her. This is a basic new shift in terminology and this is an essential shift which affects most promising areas, including space research. I am sure that our heightened interests will be evinced in cooperation between Russia and India. We believe that each country has a right to strong defence and to guarantees of its security.

We signed yesterday a military technological cooperation agreement. We signed a treaty and various agreements and accords. We are prepared, on commercial basis, as is done in the rest of the world, to sell most advanced weapons and other weapons. We have now no secrets to keep from India. We, in military area, have good traditions with India, good links, and we do not intend to destroy them. Rather, we intend to build on them. Yesterday, in this sense, we also had a discussion with Mr. prime minister and I assured him that the agreement that we signed on the delivery of cryogenic engines, despite pressures from other countries, will be unconditionally complied with by us. So, what can be said about equality of Indo-Russian relationship, given our desire to maintain continuity of that relationship, this keenness of commitment of both countries to democracy, trust, openness and large-scale cooperation.

We expect by 1994 to increase our volume of trade from three billion to 3.5 billion dollars to reach pragmatism in politics and economics, removing ideology and excessive rhetoric from politics, direct links between the peoples of the two countries, broad involvement in economic cooperation of private capital and private initiatives, continuity of friendship between the people of India and Russia, friendship that we had in the past, that we have now and in futue also. I am now ready to take your questions.

Information adviser: Now, I would request his excellency the prime minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao to make his statement.

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao: Mr. President and friends: We have just heard the remarks of President Yeltsin. It is the last general public function that he is participating in his present visit. I say 'present' because we expect several visits from him later. This has been all too short and we do feel that we must have him here for a longer visit before long. Though his stay has been short, it has been significant and meaningful.

Our discussions yesterday and today have covered a wide range of relations between the Russian Federation and India on several issues of common concern to us. We had a frank and fruitful exchange of views on a number of issues in the sphere of economic, technological and defence cooperation, resulting in decisions which in my assessment have laid a durable foundation for future friendship and close interaction between our two countries. The convergence of views on matters of mutual interest and common concern to both countries have produced fruitful meaningful and purposeful cooperation between our two countries both bilateral and in the multilateral talks. The results of our discussions manifest the beginning of a new chapter in Indo-Russian relations in the changed global context. What is gratifying is that the momentous political changes that have affected both our countries will land a flexibility and dynamism to our relations which has sustained the under-current continuity in terms of traditional friendship for exchange between the people of India and the people of Russian Federation. It is all this that I have to say at present. I thank you very much for attending this press conference in such large nubmers. We are both now at your disposal. We can clarify any point which you would like to be clarified.

Information adviser: I have a small point to tell you.

You can ask one question to president, Mr. Yeltsin and the next question to prime minister, Shri Narasimha Rao. You can raise your number. You can ask the final question to president, Mr. Yeltsin.

Question: Mr. President, you have already mentioned about the Russian foreign policy. You have paid a visit to Seoul after your visit to Beijing. So could you develop further the idea about the foreign policy priorities of Russia in Europe and in Asia. What would be your next stop?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: Well, I can reply to your question which will be as follows: In fact, Russia is almost an Euro-Asian power which consists of an area of 17 million square kilometres as its territory including 10 million square kilometres lying in Asia.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: This simple arithmetic would present the fact that we need to maintain a balance in our relations, foreign policy relations, with the West and with the east. Their emblem has a two- headed eagle, one head looking to the West and the other head looking to the east. We, in fact, had an independent foreign policy a year ago by making an emphasis on our relations with the United States, and as I said before, that was because we had to provide a powerful incentive to the drive for reduction of nuclear weapons to combat the fear and then to proceed along on the path of balance also. And the recent series of state visits to the South

Korea, China and now to India—especially the policies of China and India and their overall stand affects not just Asia but the rest of the world as well—are indicative of the fact that we are moving away from the Western emphasis. That has given rise to so much discussion. We intend, in the future, to develop those relations. And I can tell you that in Russia and India, there are huge resources that are complementary in nature and mutually beneficial—whatsoever Russia lacks, India has not whatsoever India lacks, we have in Russia to offer by dint of our geographic position, if not for any other reason. Therefore, our trade and economic cooperation as I said in yesterday's meeting with members of the business community, we intend to develop this cooperation. And as I said before, last year, our trade volume reaches only the mark of 1.5 billion . This year, we intend to go up to 2 to 2.5 billion dollar mark and next year to 3 to 3.5 billion mark, according to our estimates. And, of course, there are other countries in Asia and the Pacific, and of course, we intend also to devote attention to relations with those countries but India occupies a special place for reasons of longstanding, good neighbourly relations, and for the mutual sympathy that we have toward each other. So we have to preserve this positive outcome, and not discourage, and also to build on that positive result.

Question: Mr. President, you have very categorically stated that your government will support India's position vis-a-vis Kashmir. Do we take it, therefore, that you support the Indian contention that Pakistan supports the terrorists in Kashmir, both directly and indirectly and is a real mischief-maker?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: Well, I will first reply to this question. Russia's decision on this subject is quite clear. And this is something which was mentioned in my remarks before the members of parliament and the members of the India international centre.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: And the same thing I mentioned to Mr. Rao during my discussion yesterday. Our policy is quite clear on the subject that India must keep its integrity, must stay united and undivided and we intend to support it in its position on Kashmir. The modalities of our possible support in this respect cannot be spelt out here. As a permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations and as a member of the other international organisations, we intend to consistently abide by that policy. Truth is on the side of India in this question and we intend politically to support truth and to defend it.

Of course, we want to have some relations with Pakistan. We do not want to see rupture in these relations but sometimes on some basic issues, on some fundamental issues, we cannot go against common sense and our position on this subject is dictated by common sense.

Question: Mr. Prime Minister, you have accepted the invitation to visit Russia. When are you planning to go?

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao: I think yesterday it was decided that the dates of my visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels which is normally done.

Question: In the course of talks, much attention has been paid to the military question. The Indo-Russian treaty of 1971 contained a special provision on the question of security interest of both the sides. The treaty of friendship between Russia and India is indicative of the fact that Russia was interested in coperation with India. This was not indicated in what you had said yesterday.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: To elaborate on that, I can tell you first that we signed yesterday a military technological cooperation agreement and we intend to develop further that military technological cooperation. We also agreed on the modalities of that cooperation with the prime minister. Next, the treaty with the former Soviet Union on strategic cocooperation was meant to imply high relationship, spearheaded against a third country. This is something which we no longer support. What we support is bilateral relationship that is not spearheaded against anybody else and we intend to assist India in selling spare parts and other equipment that India needs to protect its sovereignty.

Press adviser to the prime minister: There is no interpretation facility.

Question: I just wanted to ask one question of Mr. Boris Yeltsin: America has suggested that Japan and Germany should be made permanent representatives of the Security Council. Will you help and propagate the case of India to be a permanent member of the Security Council?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: This is a difficult question for me, not because I am not in support of India's position, but because I am a younger person in terms of Russia's representative as a member of the Security Council of the United Nations. This question calls for a further scrutiny. We need to take a close look at the principles underlying the formation of the Security Council. If this is based on the number of nuclear-warheads, then that is one thing. But I do not think this is the principle underlying the formation of the Security Council. Of course, this is not so. Rather the yardsticks that we expect would be the size of the country, the size of the population, the level of cultural development, spiritual development and material welfare. So, we need to take a close look at this question. To tell you frankly, really I am not prepared to give you a straight answer to this straight question. Of course, if this question is brought up for discussion, then I will give an answer.

Question: Could you please clarify one thing, what you have said in your support of India and Jammu and Kashmir: On Jammu and Kashmir, you just said that a clause in the agreement, in the former Indo-Soviet treaty, was directed against third parties. As you know, there is a very difficult situation in this part of the world, for India and Pakistan. What would be your position if there is a future conflict between India and Pakistan? Would you clarify what exactly your position is with regard to Pakistan?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: It is my feeling that just as we have in Vienna the European centre for the settlement of conflicts of this kind, for the Asian and Pacific region, there has to be a centre to deal with conflict settlements with regard to

relations between the states with involvement of the countries that are situated in this area. We need to have this centre and Russia would be prepared to make its contribution to the formation of this centre. As to the venue of the centre, well, this is a subject to further discussion, and not in Russia, not in China, maybe in India or in other countries. It is only acting in this way not saying that one country goes to war with another country, that will give some positive result.

Question: Would you be more specific in your support of India and in what respect it differs from the relationship between the former Soviet Union and India? Can you elaborate on that in greater detail?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: Well, you know, the time that we have at our disposal in the course of this press conference does not make it possible to be more specific in explaining the difference between the two types of good relations.

But briefly, I would say that there cannot be the same type of relationship which existed in the past. This would be governed, in many respects, by the changes that have taken place. That relationship was seen earlier as a sort of counterweight, counter- balance, against the United States and China. This is something that need not be conceived today. This is something that everyone can see quite clearly.

Therefore, Russia has no intention of playing, the so-called Indian coin, in confrontation with the world imperialists, with world trade and with the so-called Chinese hegemony. This is now past. It is quite a thing of the past. We will not have this type of relationship now.

Question: This question is addressed to President Yeltsin.

Mr. Yeltsin, the agreement relating to the cryogenic rocket technology resulted in cut off of technical assistance to the Indian space agency by the United States. Now, you have reasserted the Russian Federation's commitment to this agreement. What impact, do you think, this commitment of yours would have on your relationship with the West? I would pass on the same question to Mr. Rao also. How do you view this as affecting India's relationship, especially on missile proliferation agreement, with the West?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: I would reply to this in the following term. I would say once again—I am saying this for the third time running in the past two-and-a-half days—that the two countries had signed this agreement. We had put a seal really when the two nations reached this political agreement. Therefore, our intention is to stand by this political agreement for the supply of cryogenic engines.

As for the possible measures that the United States might take, that is a matter of commonsense and sensibility. In the United States we have now the newly-elected president, Mr. Clinton, with whom I have only had a telephone conversation so far. We are now proposing to meet in a third country. Our foreign ministers are making preparations for this meeting. In that meeting, we would discuss this subject as well. But Russia would not withdraw from this agreement.

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao: Is there anything to add to what the president has said? This is a clean contract between two governments. They have been good enough, the president has been good enough, to say that he will stick to it. We are grateful for that. I do not see any reason why any other matter should come into this.

Question: This question is addressed to Mr. Narasimha Rao.

President yeltsin has mentioned the figure of 323.5 billion dollars. How does India view this figure in terms of specific contours, particularly.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: We will reach that figure in 1994.

Question: I am talking of the future. I would like to know what India's view are on this subject, particularly, in view of the fact that there is a potential possibility of Western countries offering credit to Russia, which will, possibly, erode the slight advantage that may rest with India?

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao: This intention which has been expressed, I am sure, some work has gone into it. I will not go into the details. But I do feel that until 1994, by 1994, it will be possible to reach somewhere near the figure given by the president. We can give you the details later. But I am afraid, I do not think I can give you any details right now. The president has been saying this. He has said it several times. It will be possible. In the past also, we had fixed certain targets and we had tried our very best to reach those targets.

Question: I would like to ask you to comment on two news reports that have come in the press this week. One, the head of the Soviet police, Mr. Primakov, has said that both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: We do not have any longer Soviet police in our country. It is Russian police, not Soviet police. And then it is not 'police', but intelligence.

Question: Mr. Primakov has said both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: You have to say "Russian Intelligence Service". We have 130 nationalities and ethnic groups living in our country.

Question: But, Mr. Primakov said both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons. And also, would you comment on another report that Russia is now in the bidding to sell India advance jet trainers?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: Replying to your first question, I would say I am not familiar with any statement to the effect coming from Russian Intelligence Service. Well, if there was anything to this effect, we would have some reports on that and with respect to Pakistan.

As to our willingness to sell to India fighter trainers, yes, sir, we are negotiating this with India.

Question: We would like to hear from the president in greater detail about the terms of the agreement concerning exchange of rupee and rouble.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: Well, to be quite frank this problem affects our relations with many countries. That relates to us and I do not think the press conference is the proper place to discuss this subject. I can only confine my remarks to saying that at long last, after so many years, we spent several hours together with the prime minister yesterday and clinched the agreement. There was a minor point that we removed today and there are no other obstacles or areas that would come in the way of development of cooperation in future. We settled all issues concerning payments. There is a joint agreement on both sides.

Question: Mr. Yeltsin, are you going to give your comment whether the Security Council was justified in proclaiming sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: You may have noticed that we have taken a more restraining attitude towards these sanctions, much less, say, to some military measures that might be taken against Yugoslavia. As to the possible course of discussion on this subject in the Security Council, I am hard put to be more specific. But our current position is that if you use force methods, I don't think that you can settle any issue throughout the world. If you use force against force, then, you would have bigger confrontation and bigger tension. Therefore, you need to use political means to try and arrive at a settlement.

Question: Mr.Yeltsin, are you concerned at the prospect of India or Pakistan acquiring nuclear weapons? If you are concerned, which arrangement you feel is the best one for ensuring non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in this region? Do you think that NPT [non- proliferation treaty] is the best option?

Mr.Boris Yeltsin: In the first place, I can tell you that this was not on the agenda of our discussions.

Question: My question is to the Indian prime minister. Mr. Rao, we are witnessing a flurry of visits by foreign dignitaries, Mr. John Major, Mr. Yeltsin and the German chancellor is also coming. Are they coming to India after the announcement of our new economic policy or they are mere coincidence?

Shri. P.V.Narasimha Rao: You know that most of the visits take place in this season. This is the foreign season in India. Apart from that these visits were fixed long ago. In fact, President Yeltsin's visit has been postponed two or three times and the people were starting to wonder why he is postponing his visit to India again and again. I am glad that even if this is a short visit, he has made it this time. That is how he is here.

On the prime minister of the United Kingdom's visit, you know that we had made him the chief guest on the occasion of the republic day, on the 26th January and no other person could have come after his having been made the chief guest for the republic day.

Now, Chancellor Kohl's visit, that also has been worked out by mutual consent and mutual convenience. So it is not very much a coincidence. But it is a good thing that they are coming in quick succession because it gives us an opportunity to have a meaningful dialogue with them. Each one of them has a different flavour. Each visit has a different flavour. We are the beneficiaries to have all of them in quick succession.

Question: My question is to the Indian prime minister. Russia is a legal successor to the Soviet Union. Sometimes I believe you could see the presence of our former partners of the Soviet Union in your various types of negotiations you had with the Russian leaders. May I know whether you discussed with them about our partners of the former Soviet Republics in the course of the talks?

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao: We did not touch upon any former republics of the Soviet Union. I think, we were concentrating on the matters that have been announced already. We did not have time to go into several aspects and every other aspect. You know what we discussed and within that you can ask any clarifications and we will give.

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: All the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States are sovereign and it is the independent states that assume the role of foreign policy. Therefore, discussing on their behalf their relations with India does not concern Russia, especially since neither Russia nor myself have been authorised to do so on their behalf. But as we came through very strenuous efforts to a solution on reciprocal payment issue, this may set an example to other member states of the Commonwealth so that they can follow the same path. But it is left for them to decide.

Question: Sir, President Yeltsin has spoken about two great counties reneging on their promises with regard to cryogenic engines and supplying one million tonnes of oil to India. And with only 60,000 tonnes currently available, we understand that there has been no further talks or no further dialogue on this subject. So, how do you both propose to go about this? India does need oil and what would be the new terms?

Mr. Boris Yeltsin: Well, I must say that the point you made is slightly off the mark in the sense that what I said was interpreted by you in a somewhat different way. I did not say that in the framework of Russia-India relations, we comply with all the agreements that we have. We discussed exclusively this issue of cryogenic engines and then, of course, I can cite many other products that neither India nor Russia was able to supply to each other under this agreement. Well, that is because we are going through a recession period.

We have a slump in production. To my great regret, this situation will continue during 1993. We expect stabilisation, economic stabilisation, only by the end of 1993. That is my first point. My second point is relating to your question. We have not discussed that issue at all. Although I would have personally wanted, we did not raise it at all. But my understanding of the matter is that we underline the mechanics of this issue—it is not because of Russia, but it is because of Iraq, it is because of the fact that the Security Council of the United Nations imposed sanctions on Iraq, on the oil deliveries from Iraq, and oil was delivered not by

direct route because it was very costly to transport oil from Russia to India, since the transportation costs would exceed, in that case, the cost of oil. Therefore, we sent some products to Iraq and exchanged Iraq's certain amount of oil with India. Since the ban was imposed on Iraq's deliveries, what can we do now? Neither India on its own nor we can make any effort. Perhaps we should look to other parties for oil exports, say, Saudi Arabia or some other country. So this is what I see as a solution and so this is not because Russia failed to comply with its commitments.

Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao: Yet, I would only like to add that it is rather illogical to compare the cryogenic engine, on the one hand, and oil supplies, on the other, because there are certain connotations between engine and oil and there are others who are involved in these matter. The oil supply is a straight matter between the two countries, two governments and I do not consider that if there has been a shortfall in the supply, in the quantity of the supply, that amounts to reneging. Reneging is a totally different thing and since we are going to increase our trade, it is always open for us to go back to the old quantities. It is a matter always open for discussion and I do not think there should be any comparison drawn between these two matters.

Praises Roerich for Promoting Ties

LD2901182093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi January 29 TASS—Svyatoslav Roerich, noted artist and public figure of Russian descent, has set an example by his life and work in India of how the two countries should develop their ties, according to President Boris Yeltsin.

"Let's abide by the Roerich-set standard of serving the peoples of Russia and India", Yeltsin said on Friday while meeting the Indian public.

"Russians are especially grateful to the talented devotees - the Roerich family - who used their never-dying work to bring two worlds closer together: that of India and Russia", the president said and reminded that Nikolay Roerich, the father of Svyatoslav, had called 50 years ago to "cherish every root of genuine friendship for the sake of future cooperation".

The president wished good health to Svyatoslav Roerich who is now in hospital in Bangalore and sent a reply message to his greetings.

Yeltsin stressed that Roerich's work to preserve cultural heritage of his famous family is highly appreciated both in Russia and in India.

Roerich has recently established an international memorial trust of his family and the Russian president is the main trustee of it.

Assesses Results of Visit

LD2901184493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1815 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow, Jan 29—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today returned to Moscow after completing his first official visit to the Republic of India.

"I am extremely satisfied with the results of my visit," Boris Yeltsin said when asked by ITAR-TASS on the outcome. He signalled that his trip to Delhi was another move toward balancing Russia's foreign policy between East and West. "Russia has had its own independent foreign policy only for a year," the president recalled, "and at first we had to decide on significant nuclear weapons cuts with the United States. That was the main issue, and it has been resolved. Now our policy is equally balanced between West and East. Russia is a Eurasian country; moreover, more of its lands lie in Asia than in Europe. We cannot overlook this fact."

Boris Yeltsin is convinced that a balanced and independent policy pursued by Russia will serve international security. "No single state can rule the world and influence everything that happens," he said.

Speaking of problems supplying India with Russian oil, Boris Yeltsin remarked that Russia's shortfall in deliveries is due to the UN Security Council's sanctions against Iraq, since much of the oil was reexported to India from Iraq. When sanctions were imposed deliveries were of course stopped, but Russia was not to blame for this. A possible solution to the problem, according to the president of the Russian Federation, would be "to find another reexporter. It might be Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates, and they are thinking about this in India," he said. "But we cannot supply raw materials directly: transportation would cost more than the oil itself."

Returns to Moscow

LD2901174093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1718 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasili Tirov]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin returned to Moscow on Friday [29 January] upon completing his official visit to India.

Program Fulfilled '100 Percent'

LD0102115393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—The programme of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India has been fulfilled 100 percent, Aleksandr Alekseyev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Department for South Asia, said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday [1 February], Alekseyev said all issues planned for discussion in India were discussed and solved.

Russia confirmed its intention to re-orientate its foreign policy towards Asia. Yeltsin made similar pledges in China and South Korea. Now the Russian foreign policy is "balanced enough and does not list to the West," the diplomat said.

The visit helped Russia and India to settle the dispute over the exchange rate of the rouble to the rupee and India's debt to Russia which seriously hampered bilateral relations in the past few years.

The parties signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation based not on ideological dogmas but on real interests of the two countries. Alekseyev described the document as "an entirely new turn in relations" between Russia and India.

The parties also concluded a set of agreements on cultural and economic cooperation, as well as interaction between Indian and Russian law enforcement bodies.

Kozyrev Comments on Relations With India, East

LD2901190893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Remarks by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to special correspondent Yuliy Semenov in Delhi on 29 January—recorded]

[Text] This visit was a big breakthrough, and essentially today we have finished the first stage of establishing a new relationship, which includes all positive things, and which at the same time introduces the modern type of Russia's policy—the non-politicized, pragmatic, and well balanced policy both for West and East. As a whole, we can say that today, practically for the first time in the last 70 years, Russia's relations with very important countries in the East are not worse than they are with the West, because all the same in the mid-70s the CSCE mechanism was set up with the West and the main problems, such as boundary problems etc., have been solved.

As far as the East was concerned, it was completely neglected. That is why this took more time. A whole year was spent in preparing for this visit. We do not have, of course, complete unity. It will come later, but I think that even now we can say that Russia has good neighbors on its whole border.

Interviewed on Yeltsin Visit

LD3001135093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpts] President Yeltsin's visit to India, which has just ended, has aroused an extensive positive response in the capitals of the two countries. Naturally, the results of the visit are satisfying, primarily to those who prepared the visit. However, Russian's Foreign Minister Kozyrev looks at the results of the visit through more than the prism of Russian-Indian relations. Here is what he said to our special correspondent Yuliy Semenov before flying to Moscow:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] [passage omitted] Taking into account the recent progress in Minsk, I think that one can hope that the whole of 1993 will be the year for a sort of stabilization. I think that this will be a year for going over to implementing the accords that have been reached.

It will be very important for our departments—the economic ones—first of all, and the regions to make full use of the political basis that has been created with regard to China, India, Korea, and with the United States, which is also one of our Eastern neighbors. Foreign policy, however, can only create these conditions. Their implementation depends on our economic departments, on our regions, on our businessmen. It depends on those structures that should make use of these opportunities. [end recording]

Commentary Welcomes Outcome of Yeltsin Visit

BK3001112293 Moscow Radio Moscow in Hindi 1100 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Yuriy Soltan Commentary]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to India has ended. Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma, commenting on the outcome of the Russian-Indian summit talks, said now a new era will begin in our relations and desired cooperation at a bilateral level and in the international arena. The Russian president agreed with this. He said no matter how Russia's relations with other states developed, whether in Asia or beyond, they are by no means regarded by us as an alternative to cooperation with India and are not being developed at the expense of this cooperation.

During the Russian president's visit, irritants felt in recent times in the bilateral relations were removed for the sake of mutual interest. An important understanding was reached on the principle to settle mutual debts which could open ways for vast possibilities of development of bilateral economic cooperation. Concrete agreements were also signed in this connection. Boris Yeltsin reiterated that Russia will implement the agreement on the supply by Russia of cryogenic engines to India which had angered the United States. It was decided not only to continue but expand the partnership in the field of military-technical cooperation. All this does not mean that any type of Russian-Indian military-political bloc is emerging. Russia opposes the division of the world in bilateral or multilateral blocs or military spheres. The special Russian-Indian relationship based on good old tradition of friendship between the people of both countries is not against any third country.

The Friendship and Cooperation Treaty signed in Delhi on 28 January does not include the military clause which was in the last India-Soviet treaty which obliged the two countries to jointly take steps against an attack or threat of attack against any one of them. The new treaty emphasizes cooperation between two countries to achieve the objective of maintaining peace and accelerating the disarmament process. A clause in the treaty says that Russia and India have agreed that the process of nuclear and conventional disarmament, including the reduction and ultimate liquidation

of mass destruction weapons, should be accelerated. They consider that a reduction in armed forces and armaments to levels for minimum defense requirements will lead to strengthening of security and stability in regional and global dimensions.

Russia is activating its policy toward the East. President Yeltsin paid successful visits to South Korea and China. The outcome of India-Russia summit talks could also be considered as a significant step on the path of strengthening peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

North Korea May End IAEA Inspections Because of 'Team Spirit'

LD2901183893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1822 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Valiyev]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—North Korea warned on Friday [29 January] that the joint U.S.-South Korean "Team Spirit" military exercise scheduled for March may force it to close its objects for IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspections and that its military experts will not observe the manoeuvres despite South Korean invitation.

North Korean Ambassador in Russia Son Song-pil told a press conference that the exercise aggravates the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in North-Eastern Asia and disrupts negotiations between both Koreas. He called on Russia and China to refrain from any kind of participation in the manoeuvres and use all efforts to stop them.

According to the North Korean leadership, the "Team Spirit" contradicts the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty because a mighty nuclear power - the United States - participates in it and threatens non-nuclear North Korea, the ambassador said.

He warned that the emerging situation does not allow North Korea "to normally fulfil its commitments" of the treaty, which actually means that North Korean nuclear objects would be closed for IAEA inspectors.

There were four such inspections last year and despite their results the United States and South Korea continue to suspect North Korea of secret nuclear research and this serves as a pretext for resuming the exercise, according to the ambassador.

North Korean military observers will not accept the South Korean invitation to the exercise. As far as the presence of Russian and Chinese observers is concerned, the ambassador said that this is an internal affair of each of the states.

However, "North Korea would like that the two countries should be in no way engaged in the "Team Spirit" and, realising the negative influence of the manoeuvres on the situation in Asia, take all efforts to completely end the exercise", Son Song-pil said.

Commentary on 'Team Spirit'

SK3101093793 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 30 Jan 93

[From the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] DPRK Ambassador to Russia Son Song-pil held a news conference on 29 January for Russian reporters. He disclosed the DPRK's position on the ROK-U.S. Team Spirit joint military exercise scheduled for March this year. The ambassador told reporters about the DPRK Foreign Ministry statement on this issue.

Station commentator Vazin Kavayev was at the news conference. He writes:

On 26 January the U.S. and the ROK authorities officially announced that they will conduct the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise on the Korean peninsula. The DPRK Government and people regard this military exercise as preparation for a potential nuclear war. The resumption of the military exercise will aggravate the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and make it impossible for the North and the South to conduct dialogue in the near future.

The DPRK thinks that the Team Spirit exercise is not justified in the current situation: The world is following the trend of detente after the end of the Cold War, and the North and the South have agreed on the treaty of reconciliation and nonaggression. Moreover, the DPRK thinks that this military exercise is incompatible with the basic clauses of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The DPRK is adamantly opposed to this provocative military exercise. The U.S. and the ROK authorities should be held totally responsible for the consequences of the exercise, Korean Ambassador Son Song-pil said.

Under the circumstances, inter-Korean dialogue is impossible, as is nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. If the new ROK leadership is to prove its allegiance to democratic principles, it should withdraw the decision to resume the Team Spirit military exercise. The DPRK Government and the Korean people express a conviction that the world's peace-loving people will watch the situation on the Korean peninsula, express solidarity with the cause of peace on the peninsula, and support the Korean nation's efforts for the country's reunification, the ambassador said.

Rutskoy, U.S. Vice President Discuss Relations

LD2901173393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1708 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore had a telephone conversation on Friday [29 January] to discuss future relations and international issues.

Rutskoy sincerely congratulated Gore with official assumption of the post of vice-president and called for active deepening of the Russian-U.S. partnership in all areas.

"We, in Moscow, proceed from the fact that our bilateral relations will have a fresh stimulus for further development under President Clinton's Administration and with your, Mr Gore, direct participation," said Rutskoy.

Gore said Russia has the priority place in the U.S. foreign policy. Washington is ready to do its best to contribute to the development of Russian democracy and market reforms.

The two countries' vice-presidents discussed most topical issues of the world politics and called for continued cooperation in settlement of regional crises, primarily that in Bosnia and around Iraq.

Speaking of humanitarian relations, Rutskoy and Gore were unanimous in their opinion about the need for active joint steps to return home all Russian POWS staying in Afghanistan and continue work within the framework of the Russian-U.S. commission to find out the fate of U.S. servicemen, missing during the Second World War, in Korea and Vietnam.

The discussion of the START-2 Treaty issues and its ratification revealed full coincidence of views of Rutskoy and Gore on the fundamental treaty and its role in ensuring stability in the world.

The sides stressed that joint efforts of Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton, other leaders and parliament members of Russia and the United States will not only help ratify the document but also completely fulfill it.

Rutskoy wished Albert Gore, U.S. President Bill Clinton and all the U.S. people happiness and prosperity.

Commentator Views 'Doubts' About New U.S. Administration

LD3001235593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] Any forecast about the future of Moscow-Washington relations must be seen within the context of overall policies by the new U.S. Administration, which now finds itself in a situation as extraordinary as in 1945 at the ending of World War II. This commentary is by Valentin Zorin:

President Clinton now faces the task of formulating foreign and domestic policy strategies. Is the new U.S. leader capable of handling the formidable job of a crucial policy review in the entirely new global environment? On the face of it, the answer is positive, given Mr. Clinton's keen political sense and apparent self-confidence. Many of the recognized Democratic leaders, including Senator Sam Nunn and the incumbent vice president, Mr. Gore, who stood against Mr. Bush in the previous election [as heard], dropped out of last year's race for the presidency. Mr. Bush's chances of riding to a second term in office on the wave of the Gulf War victory looked more than certain. But Mr. Clinton was unabashed by throwing his own gauntlet and winning the contest.

Nonetheless, there are doubts that the new administration is capable of making a major policy review to the challenge of the new global realities. For one reason, Mr. Clinton offered no clearcut political program, either before or after the election. Apart from the usual change of political accent that the Democrats make each time they come to office, there are no quick or easy answers to America's problems.

The other reason is the makeup of Mr. Clinton's team, which lacks outstanding figures of the postwar dimension, such as John Foster Dulles or Bernard Baruch, George Marshall or George Kennan, let alone President Roosevelt, who laid the groundwork of U.S. postwar policies for many years to come. The new administration is made up of a usual strain of politicians, qualified, but little to write home about for the time being. It appears to have been forged to a quota principle, including a certain number of young and old politicians recruited from amongst women, blacks, and other minority groups. It is most doubtful that such an administration will be able to break abruptly with the old stereotypes to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Arbatov Comments on Russian-U.S. Relations

LD3101160493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2330 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Hello and welcome to Top Priority. I'm Irina Tkachenko. Once again we step out of the studios of Radio Moscow to meet Dr. Georgiy Arbatov, director of the USA and Canada Studies Institute, to look at the recent report developed by the USA and Canada Studies Institute entitled "The Clinton Administration and the prospects for Russia" which looks at the prospects for Russian-American relations with the coming to power of the new Clinton administration. Dr. Arbatov, the message of the report seems to be that even though Mr. Bush was rather popular here as the President, during whose term Russia has developed quite a workable relationship with the United States, the coming of the Clinton administration opens up more promising prospects in Russian-American relations. And one of the sides, one of the aspects of this relationship, which you've singled out, was that this is the first administration that is a post Cold War administration—the administration that does not remember the Second World War. Now, does that change the Russian-American relations as they are at the moment and also, how could you characterize the Russian leadership from the standpoint of the post Cold War mentality?

[Arbatov] Aside from our military industrial complex and our military people who have some vested interest in retaining big army and big defense industry, also the most hostile position to the government, tries to use old Cold War topics in their fight against the president, against Yeltsin and his team becase they do want to get support of those parts of population which remembers Second World War and maybe whose mind is permeated still by old perceptions and old fears and all of it, but it doesn't comprise a big force really.

The overall attitude here, and I feel it very well, here at the Institute, is that people are mostly interested in internal affairs. It is, for a lot of people, a problem of survival now.

So, they understand that there is no danger of war from United States, anybody else coming, and if it isn't they don't care much about other things because their problem is how really to live from one [word indistinct] to the other.

On the other side, the world has become tremendously interdependent and you cannot isolate yourself from the world and hope that you will have prosperity. For us, the problem is also different you know, because for us the number one priority in our foreign policy is our relations with former republics of Soviet Union. Number two may be these former Comecon countries, then comes the others. I take aside, of course, the problem of avoiding nuclear war which is always the number one problem. And we don't have yet, we have not worked out yet a really clear and viable concept of Russian foreign policy, what it should be. Maybe it's too early to expect also it to come. You know, we managed to create, at first, an impression that we are totally orientated towards the West. So now, Yeltsin has the difficult job to pursue it, the Chinese, the Koreans, the South Koreans, now the Indians, that it's not true. It is a Eurasian country, of course. But what is important that the Cold War is over, we have to demilitarize the country. We've started that, but it is a very difficult process and it is wrought with serious dangers, you know. If you just leave alone hundreds of thousands of officers who will be demobilized without houses, without jobs. They can become a very easy prey for any demagogue from the left or from the right. From 40 to 60 percent—we have different calculations—of our industry work for defense. Their appropriations will decrease, it was said, by 70 percent last year. I think later they will increase and it will be just to save the industries. But it will become smaller and smaller. Of course we don't need such mammoth defense industry.

What will the workers do—the engineers, the scientists who work there? You have to think about them. And there was already a serious talk about the measures to prevent those who know how to create nuclear weapon, other weapons of mass destruction to go to the most dangerous countries from this point of view, like Iran or Libya or some others.

But this is not the only concern, you know, that they can destabilize the country also politically. So here we need a very big work, a very serious effort, very bright plan how to do it and maybe a lot of international cooperation.

[Tkachenko] Is that the area that you would hope to see Russian-American cooperation developed and help accommodate the Russian military released from the army? And also, what gives you hope to believe that this is a realistic prognosis?

[Arbatov] I wouldn't say that I believe only that it is exclusive task of the Americans to cooperate in this. You know the Germans do cooperate. But I think Americans have also an incentive, because what does it mean if the Russian Army, and the whole former army of Soviet Union decreases from 4.5 million, let's say, to two million or 1.5 million. It means that America can decrease this military appropriation to a very significant degree. If America doesn't have an enemy, if the Cold War has stopped, why should America spend $260 billion on army and armaments? I think that this is clear here that some of the money, and America especially for instance, you know, to implement the START I and START II agreements. [sentence as heard] You have to destroy in very short time tremendous amount of nuclear weapons, which is a complicated and very expensive process. It is connected also with the very delicate problem because in course of this destruction of nuclear weapons, according to START I, nuclear weapons will be removed from other republics. All of them will be concentrated only in Russia, which means serious steps in nonproliferation, which is one of our major government goals.

[Tkachenko] Dr. Arbatov, when you said that Germany has realized the need to see Soviet weapons leave its territory and actually helped to see them leave, let me read the rest: The United States has not been so willing to help the process in the same, let's say, scope as Germany has. Twenty-four billion dollars promised in aid by George Bush never materialized and on the level of undertones, even though that has never been explicitly, publicly, clearly stated, Mr. Yeltsin has on more than one occasion signalled his dissatisfaction with the amount of help financial and otherwise that Russia has been getting from the United States.

In this context, his most recent remarks, on the eve of flying off to India, about the tendency on the part of the United States to dictate its conditions in international relations, was interpreted very quickly by the Western media as criticism of the U.S. policy by Boris Yeltsin, and probably as the beginning of some sort of rift. Is that a correct interpretation in your viewpoint?

[Arbatov] I wouldn't connect this, you know, very meagre assistance to Russia. Though, if you get assistance you cannot complain that it is meagre [chuckles], any pittance is a pittance, [chuckles] you know. It was disappointing because of bad handling on the side of the West. There were illusions created that if we really go into this Gaydar reform, which is very painful, in my opinion very false, counterproductive, and dangerous for economy of the country, but somehow it was tempting for many people in the West. Then, if we fulfil all the conditions which by the way was possible to do only under conditions of capitalist salvation, a very big part of our population, and there this figure 24 billion appeared. It was not American help, by the way. It had to be given by [the] IMF. America had to give only a part of it, and not 24 billion. It was called 24 billion, but big part of it should be never be touched. It had to be allocated to the stabilization fund. There are very tricky ways to create an illusion that you get money when you really don't get it. And I see here certain guilt on the part of the West, that it misled not only our public opinion but our leadership, about the assistance it will get from the West. But it had nothing to do, I think, with the criticism expressed now towards some actions in foreign policy which were committed by Americans recently. Maybe just because the Administration in the United States simply didn't care enough about the Russians.

But they undertook some moves in Iraq, in Serbia in particular, without consultations. And not only we, also the

French were dissatisfied, and expressed even in stronger words that. One has to have in mind that what United States does in Iraq is done under mandate given by Security Council of the United Nations, where we are a permanent member. So, if United States does something, it does it also in our name. And this makes it necessary for the United States to consult us before it does anything of this kind. Otherwise, you know, would the United States strike some other country we would, could deplore it, criticize it. But it wouldn't violate any commitments. But here it violated some commitments [word indistinct] the United States. And I think in this sense, though we are critical of Saddam Hussayn and his policy—and as you know a Russian is the head of the inspection team there, and we take part in inspection, etc.—and just because of this, because we take part in all the activities, the Americans cannot start such hostile actions as bombing of Iraq without consultations with us.

[Tkachenko] Do you believe that Russia would be voicing its opinion and trying to actually press it, press it with the international community?

[Arbatov] The real Russian policy, current policy, is concept, is still in embryonic state. But at the same time, of course we can, we can have interest, legitimate and sometimes illegitimate. I'm concerned, for instance, about our sales of arms. We have redundancy of arms and we have more than one of the big shots in military industrial complex who would like to sell them to anybody in the world. And I think it is necessary to start as quick as possible special negotiations on (?transferment) for conventional armaments and to limit it, to put it under international control.

[In the] Cold War years tremendous defense industry was built up. Now the market has shrunk, all countries don't have money. So there will be, by dumping prices, tremendous pressures there to sell, sell, and sell. And therefore there is need of international negotiations and agreements on it. And here we can get into serious, serious disagreements. Would Ukraine sell, for instance, to China, a couple of aircraft carriers? It could change in such way the balance of power in Southeast Asia, and the same is true for Russia. Russia could sell to somebody a lot of armaments which could also create some problems, you see.

[Tkachenko] If you were talking right now with Bill Clinton, what would your brief advice be to the new President of the United States in dealing with the Russian president in the future?

[Arbatov] You know, I have to give advice to leaders here, so my advice to Clinton would be the same. I have mentioned it only in what has he done—give wrong advice. But we need more than your money, you know, (?or) your technology, anything. Don't give wrong advice, especially on economy. We received wrong advice with Gaydar reform and we have suffered a lot because of it, and we will have still a tremendous work to somehow, to repair the damage. And I would be very careful, I would recommend him to study very carefully the situation in Russia. And even if asked for advice give it only on basis of very good knowledge.

[Tkachenko] That was Dr. Georgiy Arbatov, director of the USA and Canada Studies Institute, talking on Top Priority. Thank you, sir, very much indeed for finding the time to talk to Top Priority.

[Arbatov] Goodbye, thank you.

Churkin Comments on Croatia, UN Role, U.S. Stance

LD2901154493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1426 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey]

[Text] Moscow January 28 TASS—"We view Croatia as a friendly state and see no obstacles to develop normal and good-neighbourly relations with it after the end of the Yugoslavian conflict", Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin said at a press conference on Friday [29 January].

However, Russia is concerned about the Croatian military activities which continue despite all statements of its leaders. This shows that the dangerous potential of the conflict has not been exhausted yet, Churkin said, adding those conditions which the Croatian side advances in connection with January 26 resolution of the U.N. Security Council do not promote the settlement of the conflict either.

The U.N. Security Council should continue to follow the situation and actively and decisively react to any changes in its development, said Churkin who has recently returned from former Yugoslavia.

"Without a decisive and principled role of the Security Council, we believe there is no hope for the improvement of the situation in former Yugoslavia", he added.

He praised the position of Bill Clinton's administration on the problem. "We welcome the big attention paid by the U.S. Administration to the problem and have already begun to cooperate with it on various levels", the deputy foreign minister said.

Calls Croatian Offensive 'Illogical'

LD2901193593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By correspondent A. Peslyak, including recorded remarks by Vitaliy Churkin, deputy Russian foreign minister; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows Vitaliy Churkin, deputy Russian foreign minister, giving news conference; pictures of damaged hydroelectric power station and damaged military vehicles; UN vehicle, patrolling servicemen; more shots of Churkin at news conference.]

[Peslyak] Having returned from Zagreb, the Russian diplomat Vitaliy Churkin reminded journalists that since the

Geneva conference on the former Yugoslavia in August, Russia's position has been based on a balanced approach to the conflicting sides. However, our reaction to Croatia's unexpected combat activities in Krajina is unambiguous.

[Churkin] This step was illogical, completely unconsidered, and most importantly, very dangerous as regards the possible complication of the Yugoslav conflict's development.

[Peslyak] It is true, Churkin noted, that the line of the UN and the command of the peacekeeping forces is consistent and firm. But the attacks by Croats on the dams threaten to transform an ethnic conflict into an ecological one. The diplomat declined from analyzing the reasons for the new Croatian action or its demands with respect to the UN Security Council and its resolution, noting that weapons will scarcely ensure the inflow of foreign tourists or free elections in Croatia.

The Russian battalion of UN forces is functioning effectively, but the several dozen Russian mercenaries fighting for the Serbs or Croats run the risk of getting a bullet in the back of the head from the mafia instead of dollars. Churkin noted that Russia's aims are not to pile up more and more sanctions, but to work for a settlement.

[Churkin] There is nothing anti-Croatian in the Russian line. We regard Croatia as a friendly country.

Comments on Canceling Sanctions

OW2901151493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1455 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Igor Porshnev, and Dimitriy Voskoboynikov: from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The goal of Russian diplomats is to ensure the cancellation of sanctions against Belgrade, not the introduction of sanctions against Zagreb, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin announced during a press conference on Friday [29 January]. On Thursday, Vitaly Churkin returned to Moscow from the capital of Croatia. He told Diplomatic Panorama that the introduction of sanctions against Zagreb would be "a general defeat for all of us".

Churkin said that he had informed the Croatian leaders that Moscow had no anti-Croatian plans. At the same time, he described Zagreb's military operations in Serbian Krajina as an illogical and thoughtless step.

He also said that Croatia's offensive in that region was a total surprise for both the UN mission and the Serbs populating the place. Negative consequences of this act obviously overweigh any of Zagreb's arguments, he added.

Churkin believes that there is the danger of escalation of combat operations and that attempts are being made to turn the ethnic war into ecological. According to his sources, the Croatians tried to explode a dam in Krajina.

He also said that there are Russians among the mercenaries on both the Serbian and Croatian sides. These people do not fight for nothing and receive at least about 250 dollars a month, plus a bonus for participation in specific combat operations, he said.

Sanctions on Yugoslavia 'Must Be Strictly Implemented'

PM0102115193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 8

["Editorial Viewpoint" article: "Violation of UN Sanctions is Path to War"]

[Text] Once again a theme as old as the world itself: Can and should politics be moral? There are countless reasons for this comment, but our attention was caught by the scandal caused by the Serbian river workers on the Danube. Or to be absolutely precise, the attitude of the citizens of some adjacent states to what is going on there.

The matter is simple in the extreme. Serbian oil tankers load with oil (in this instance it does not matter whether it is gasoline, diesel fuel, or fuel oil) in the Ukrainian port of Reni and sail unhindered home. In so doing they are throwing down a most impudent challenge to the world community because supplies of any petroleum products (like many other types of goods) to Yugoslavia from whatever source is categorically prohibited by the UN Security Council's resolution.

There is no denying that the sanctions, theoretically designed to pacify the extraordinarily rabid nationalist politicians, make them come to the negotiating table, and at last agree on a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav crisis, have hit hard, first and foremost against the long-suffering people. Regardless of that people's name and which God it prays to, winter has brought cold and starvation to Yugoslavia. Sanctions are increasing those calamities.

All this is so. But the international community had no choice. Persuasion, admonitions, (we know from our own case this is the impotence of force) have not achieved anything. Hotheads have called for the use of weapons. Thank God reason has prevailed so far. But nevertheless it has been necessary to resort to force. The force of economic influence.

Does it need to be said just how harsh a measure this is, bringing calamity to one and enormous financial losses to another, including in this case Russia, too, of course. But since sanctions have been imposed they must be strictly

implemented by all without exception. Not from fear but from conscience. A conscience which is completely lacking among the new businessmen illegally shipping oil to Serbia, Ukrainian Premier L. Kuchma presumes.

So is there a new theme here: Business and morality? No, it is the same old theme. Because any normal businessman, as opposed to a crook or a rogue, is bound to realize that commerce and industry can prosper only in conditions of peace and cooperation among the peoples and open state borders. Any other action which violates that order is fraught with the most dire consequences.

We know know easily the Balkan wars began and what kind of world conflagration they developed into subsequently. Is that really what Ukrainian businessmen want when selling their contraband cargo at very high prices?

Officer Arrested for Attempting To Assassinate Yeltsin

LD3001185293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1712 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Jan (TASS)—Today Justice Major General Leonid Obyektov, the military procurator of the Moscow garrison, arrested a major from one of the military units in the town of Khabarovsk (Far Eastern Military District) who is suspected of intent to make an attempt on the life of Boris Yeltsin, President of Russia.

At today's examination in the presence of his lawyer the suspect stated: "I came to Moscow on 1 January 1993 for the purpose of assassinating Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia". He gave as the motives for his action his belief that the results of the elections for the president of Russia were falsified and rigged, and his view that the policies Yeltsin is pursuing are hostile to the people. He described his intention to assassinate the president of the Russian Federation as his "official and civic duty" and "his contribution to the cause of fighting for socialism".

Back in Khabarovsk, the suspect personally prepared two explosive devices filled with steel ball bearings. In Moscow the major managed to find—as he thought—the house where President Boris Yeltsin lived, and spied out the code of the front door lock. He was stopped by a guard when he tried to get inside the house, but the major managed to extricate himself. Whilst the suspect was wandering around Moscow (he slept at railway stations) in the sleet, the contents of the explosive packages got wet. Then he decided to use a knife to carry out his intent. The major studied the layout of the buildings and the guard of the Russian Federation government buildings complex on Staraya Ploshchad and found out that the president drives into the inside area of the complex. Having failed finally to find the exact location of B. Yeltsin's home, the major decided to pretend to be a worker or snow-sweeper, make his way into the inner compound of the government buildings, and carry out the attack on the president just as the latter was getting out of his car.

At 0530 on 27 January the major climbed scaffolding on to the roof of one of the government buildings and then entered an attic. There he concealed himself waiting for the decorating and clearing work to start, intending afterwards to descend into the inner courtyard. However at 0700 he was detained in the attic by a guard, who, disbelieving his explanations that he was a snow-sweeper, demanded his documents and summoned reinforcements. When detained the major did not offer any resistance and did not attempt to escape. A knife was discovered on his person. The major was later handed over to the Moscow military commandant's office.

The suspect has been charged under three articles of Russia's criminal code with preparing a killing, committing a terrorist act, and being wilfully absent from his military unit for over a month, Moscow Military Prosecutor Leonid Obyektovthe told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He noted that the case will shortly be handed over for further investigation to Russia's Ministry of Security.

Report Surprises Security

LD3101022893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] The directorate for security of the Russian president has received with surprise the ITAR-TASS report that an attempt on the life of President Yeltsin was committed. This was reported by the INTERFAX agency. In turn, a duty officer of the chief Moscow directorate for internal affairs told INTERFAX that he heard of the attempt via a TV news bulletin. At any rate, law enforcement bodies in Moscow were not involved in arresting the criminal, he said. ITAR-TASS reported that a major from a Khabarovsk military unit was arrested on 27 January for conspiring to assassinate President Yeltsin.

TASS Updates Investigation

LD3101110893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0943 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Roman Zadunayskiy and Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan—During the night, the criminal case involving a major from a military unit in the Far Eastern military district, who is suspected of preparing an attempt on the life of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, was handed over to the Russian General Procurator's Office. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the General Procurator's Office that, in the interests of the investigation, the flow of new information about the inquiry into the incident is being restricted. In the future, reports on the progress of the investigation will be issued officially through the channels of the ITAR-TASS agency.

The investigation must first clarify issues connected with establishing the precise identity of the suspect and with the reliability of his testimony about preparing an attempt on the life of the Russian Federation president and conduct a psychiatric examination and an investigation.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has managed to ascertain in Khabarovsk that the man arrested in Moscow is apparently an officer from a military unit in the town of Khabarovsk in the Far Eastern military district. On 25 December last year, he failed to appear for duty and had not spent the night at home. As the officer is characterized as a dependable and highly qualified specialist, his fellow servicemen decided that he had been involved in an accident. An inquiry was begun on the same day.

To Be 'Medically Examined'

OW3101103893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The former serviceman, who, as some media report, is suspected of preparing an attempt on President Yeltsin's life, has been detained for vagrancy and is charged with

desertion. He is now kept in the Moscow commandant's office and will be medically examined in the next few days.

Officials have, in fact, refuted the reports about a thoroughly prepared plan to assassinate Yeltsin. It was alleged on Saturday [30 January] that a large-scale political action, involving pellet bombs and cold steel had been planned. Representatives of the main security department (formerly KGB's Department 9) have received this information "with puzzlement, to put it mildly."

As they have reported to IF [INTERFAX], the detained man, Ivan Vasilievich Kislov, born in 1959, was a senior assistant to the chief of a section of the Military Construction Unit N 1571 in Khabarovsk. On December 26, he deserted the unit and went to Moscow, where he wandered about, slept at railway terminals, and then found shelter in the garret of a building under repairs on the Ilinka Street, near a complex of government buildings.

Kislov was detained for vagrancy and, as a serviceman, was turned over to the commandant's office. He is charged with desertion.

At the first interrogations, Kislov confessed that he had left the unit because of his unwillingness to continue the service, but later he suddenly changed his evidence and told a new story about a plan to assassinate the president.

As IF has been reported, all security units are working smoothly without trouble.

Investigators Begin Inquiries

LD3101165193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1543 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan—ITAR-TASS has been told by the press service of Russia's procurator general that, on the instructions of Procurator General Valentin Stepankov, the case against Major Ivan Kislov, who is accused of planning an attempt on the life of the Russian president, has been taken over by the senior detective who headed the group investigating the crime.

It is already established that at the end of last year Kislov left Khabarovsk, in the Far East military okrug where he was serving, and came to Moscow where he remained for about a month. He was arrested only on 27 January of this year by bodyguards in a government building.

Under interrogation, Kislov said he was unhappy about the president's policies and came to Moscow with a homemade explosive device for the purpose of making an attempt on his life. The device, however, soon became unusable. He also gave other testimony, which is being checked by detectives.

At the present time the investigating team has begun active enquiries in Moscow and Khabarovsk kray. In the course of this it is intended to investigate fully and comprehensively all the circumstances of the incident, including in particular the motives and the number of persons possibly implicated in planning the crime.

The press service of the Procuracy General will issue information on the progress of the investigation.

Suspect Has 'Positive' Record

OW0102131593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Informed sources have revealed that Major Ivan Kislov, recently arrested suspect for attempting to assassinate the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, in his service record is characterized as "exceptionally positive." He served in Khabarovsk as senior deputy to the head of the department of military-construction of the Far Eastern Military District. He has no reprimand, however he is considered a hot tempered person with a choleric temperament.

He never expressed any intentions concerning terrorist act though he noted repeatedly that "Russia is not going in the right direction." According to the same sources 24 December he went out from home taking all the family savings with him. In the following days Kislov did not return and was declared missing. It was assumed that he fell victim to criminals.

On the local television the search for him was announced several times.

INTERFAX was told at the chief prosecutor's office of the Russian Federation of surveillance on legal observance in the armed forces that Kislov was charged 14 January according to Article 46 (Point B) with "AWOL" by the military prosecutor of Khabarovsk. However before the announcement from Moscow of his arrest local law enforcement organs had no evidence against him.

According to the Russian military prosecutor in the guardroom of the Moscow garrison where he was placed after his arrest in Moscow 27 January, Kislov was there for only a day. After his unexpected announcement of planning to assassinate President Boris Yeltsin he was transferred to the custody in Lefortovo.

Moscow To Make Arms Sales Easier for Manufacturers

OW2901202593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2006 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A presidential decree which has already been prepared, regulating the foreign economic activities of the defense industry, should make it easier for manufacturers to sell arms. This was announced by Vice Premier Georgy Khizha, who is acquainted with the weapons manufacturing complex in Tula. "People have something to sell and there are buyers, but our enterprises cannot break through the bureaucratic system which exists in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties and in the Ministry of Defense," he said at a meeting with journalists.

Discussing conversion of the defense industry, Khizha emphasized the special difficulties in the industry and expressed his regret that the majority of economic decisions "are viewed on a political level." He called the 67

cut in state orders for weapons and military equipment in 1992 an abnormal economic policy. The vice premier stated that any changes in the manufacturing would require at least 3 years, based on worldwide experience.

He said that in 1993 over 300 Bn [billion] rubles are expected to be allotted for objective preferential credits for conversion of the defense industry.

First Session of National Salvation Front Ends

LD3101164093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1623 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The first session of the National Council of the National Salvation Front ended on Sunday in the town of Inanteyevka near Moscow today. Representatives from 33 regions of Russia, city and district organisations, as well as a number of parties and movements attended the session, according to the leaders of the Front.

"All ideological differences inside the front between the 'right-wingers' and 'left-wingers' are going to the background. The main remains—the desire to rally in the struggle against the present government," Ilya Konstantinov, head of the Executive Committee of the National Salvation Front, told a news conference today.

The second session of the National Council of the National Salvation Front will be held at the end of March, Ilya Konstantinov said.

Calls For Anti-Government Action

LD3001145593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1222 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Jan—The first session of the national council of the National Salvation Front (NSF) took place today in the settlement of Ivanteyevka near Moscow.

The NSF, which brings together the left-wing and right-wing opposition, was founded on 25 October 1992. Three days later, however, Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree "On measures to protect the Russian Federation's constitutional system," in accordance with which the Front's activities were banned.

NSF leaders applied to the Constitutional Court to examine the question of the unconstitutionality of such a decision. Although the court hearing of the case will, evidently, only start at the beginning of February, the Front's council is continuing to function.

In the speeches made by NSF leaders Gennadiy Zyuganov, Mikhail Astafyev, Ilya Konstantinov, Vladimir Isakov, and Sazhi Umalatova, the main idea was that "the agreement between the three branches of power reached at the seventh Congress of People's Deputies was a formal legalization of the totalitarian-comprador regime that has arisen and against which it is necessary to adopt decisive measures."

Astafyev pointed out that the NSF "does not conceal its plans, the main aim of which is to take power into its own hands." According to Astafyev, "the Front will seek to achieve this goal by exclusively constitutional means."

An NSF resolution that has been circulated says that "the main political measures in the immediate future must be a campaign for early reelection of the president and parliament and a political festival of protest on 23 February, which "will demonstrate the opposition's unity and determination in the struggle for the people's rights." The Front's leaders also intend "to prevent ratification of the START-II treaty in the Supreme Soviet" and to organize "hearings concerning the crimes of Gorbachev and Yeltsin against the peoples of the USSR and Russia." For these ends to be achieved, the resolution suggests the use of "pickets, rallies, demonstrations, meetings with deputies, leaflets, the local, factory, and central press, radio and TV, and strikes."

The NSF session will resume on Sunday. The session will be closed. Once it has ended, the Front's leaders intend to hold a news conference.

To Establish 'Shadow Cabinet'

OW3101182193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The National Salvation Front [NSF] intends to shape a "patriotic government". The NSF's Co-Chairman Ilya Konstantinov told Interfax following the meeting of the NSF leaders in the Moscow suburban town of Ivanteyevka, that the members of the shadow cabinet will be announced at the end of March, and refused to give any names.

The NSF intends to boycott the April referendum. In the districts where the electors have no plans to boycott the event, the NSF will apply "a flexible policy and urge the electors to vote against or not to drop the ballot papers".

The NSF leaders passed the resolutions in support of the ethnic Russians living in other republics and of Dniester's struggle, as well as the resolutions on the situation in Iraq and Serbia. They also proposed the candidacies of Mikhail Astafyev and Viktor Ilyukhin to the post of Moscow mayor.

To quote Konstantinov, the NSF has 33 regional and several city branches, headquartered in Moscow and in all towns of the Moscow region, and also in the Baltic states, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Georgia. The NSF's main target is the struggle against the regime, said Konstantinov.

Change in Security Council Structure, Skokov Role Detailed

PM2901231593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 30 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Petr Akopov: "New Security Council Structure Created"]

[Text] Perhaps no Russian political institution attracts such close attention as the Security Council. It has existed for only 10 months, but all its activities so far have been cloaked in strictest secrecy.

What is the Security Council structure and the numerical strength of its apparatus, and in what way does the decision-making process operate?

The "Statute on the Security Council" does not give any answers. The papers portray the Security Council as a "secret office" deciding the country's destiny in a quiet corner of the Kremlin. Council Secretary Yuriy Skokov is seen by many as the president's eminence grise. His powers are certainly extraordinarily wide: Skokov is responsible for preparing major decisions both on questions of foreign policy and on internal security. Overseeing, as he does, the activities of the "power" ministries, the Security Council secretary is the de facto political premier—as opposed to economic premier.

After the first vote on the premier at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies demonstrated the size of Skokov's influence (he got more votes than anyone else), he was able to quietly "cede" the premier's chair, which he did not need at all, to Chernomyrdin. Particularly as the president, explaining the reason why he had withdrawn Skokov, announced that the powers of the Security Council secretary were about to be widened, and this happened two days later: On 16 December Yeltsin signed an Edict on the Creation of the Security Council Interdepartmental Foreign Policy Commission [IFPC]. The IFPC was set up as a permanent working organ of the Security Council to "carry out the tasks entrusted to it." One month later, on 19 January, a new presidential directive appeared "On Priority Measures To Provide for the Activities of the russian Federation Security Council IFPC," which approved a "Statute on the IFPC." The five-page document gives a glimpse for the first time of certain aspects of the activity of the Security Council apparatus. It is interesting that the commission includes eight heads of ministries and departments, that is, practically the entire poiitical part of the government. So the ministers are as it were servants of two masters: Chernomyrdin, as premier, and Skokov, as Security Council secretary and head of the commission. This confirms the tendency that has emerged in presidential policy to make political ministries directly subordinate to the head of state and his apparatus. In all likelihood, we will soon see the creation of a similar commission on domestic political issues and interethnic conflicts. This would be entirely appropriate, particularly as the Security Council is constantly examining interethnic crisis situations within Russia. Clearer definition and regulation of the Security Council's activities are extremely important in view of the fact that the Security Council plays and I dare say will play an increasing part in our state's political life.

Filatov Interviewed on New Post, Parliament

LD3001213293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2118 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, chief of the presidential staff, by Andrey Cherkizov; place and date not given; from the "Personality of the Week" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Cherkizov] I cannot say anything with regard to the Queen's horseguards, but the president's army has received a good reinforcement: Sergey Filatov has been appointed head of the presidential staff.

I am interested in the phenomenon of Filatov. You can count his public appearances on your fingers. He has not been particularly noticed in parliamentary debate. He has never ranted or raved and he has never bent the knee before democratic banners. We journalists, however, have always known that Sergey Filatov is one of the most serious guarantors of democracy in parliament. Sergey Filatov, one of the founders of the Democratic Russia movement and head of the president's administration, is the personality of the week.

First of all, as is the custom, I congratulate you on your new appointment and I would like to ask you a question in this connection right away: have you run away from the parliament?

[Filatov] Yes, you are original, as always. I will try to answer this question. You see, the situation is as follows. I have already said, in an interview at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, that it has been proposed that I should resign, or at least think about it. I thought that the congress should decide this issue. As far as I can understand, however, the chairman did not dare put it to the congress. The reaction of the congress was absolutely unanimous, in my view. It would not have got through the congress, judging by the murmuring in the audience. Therefore I firmly decided for myself to remain and to work till the Eighth Congress. You know, however, that before the New Year President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin unexpectedly made a proposal to me to work as head of the president's administration. I thought that I did not have the right to refuse it. I decided, if the president thought I should be by his side, then I should be there.

[Cherkizov] As a matter of fact your move to the presidential structure weakens the parliament and its leadership; that is, what Khasbulatov was dreaming about—to get rid of Filatov by hook or by crook—has come true.

[Filatov] Yes this has happened, so what?

[Cherkizov] I would like to ask: what now? What do you forecast now? You know the mechanism very well from the inside.

[Filatov] What can I forecast? You see, of course, to stop deputies from leaving should be the main thing at present. This would be possible, however, not only through the president's influence on this group of deputies but, what is most important, through the leadership of their own supreme soviets, because the actions which are undertaken quite encourage this. It seems to me that there are two options here. Either by this way the Supreme Soviet goes toward its self-annihilation and elections cannot be avoided or, for example, we find resources within ourselves for cooperation between the executive structure, the president, and parliament.

[Cherkizov] Filatov is one of the most consistent and convinced opponents of usurping power. It must be for this that he provoked the unconcealed annoyance of the supreme speaker. At times the annoyance went too far and at those moments the speaker would wage open war against Filatov, as if forgetting that they both were absolutely equal before God as well as before parliament. Moreover, it is known that Khasbulatov was elected chairman on condition that Filatov would be his first deputy. But the corridors of power are confused and sometimes they take those who go along them to such unattractive corners that a decent person, a moral person feels uncomfortable. Lately Sergey Filatov had a difficult time in parliament. He did not have air to breathe.

You are a quiet, level-headed, and well balanced man. What about fury, anger, indignation? Are these qualities familiar to you?

[Filatov] Yes, they are.

[Cherkizov] As they say, a desire to smash somebody in the face?

[Filatov, laughing] No, I do not have any such desire, but these qualities are familiar.

[Cherkizov] Do you remember what was it that made you furious and angry last time?

[Filatov] You know, perhaps, human meanness deeply hurts me rather than makes me furious and angry. For example, it began sometime at the beginning of June when many people in the apparatus started warning me that everyone had been alerted to look for compromising material against me. I know, this is one of the methods, so to speak, to get rid of a person, you know. Let them look for it. When you have found out who was looking for this compromising material, however, and who had given instructions to look for it, you began feeling very uncomfortable, of course. To what depths can human meanness penetrate? People who still continue to hug and kiss you when you meet do these things behind your back. This is frightening. You know, one feels frightened. Here it is not anger, I do not know, everything inside you is burning and boiling. It is very difficult to restrain oneself, especially when you are sitting next to this person in the presidium, for example. This is absolutely unthinkable and it is very difficult to keep up appearances so that people cannot see what is going on.

[Cherkizov] Your new post, is it purely a nomenclature job? Is it fiction, rank, title? Or is it the closest comrade in arms? In Clinton's case it is his friend from his early childhood. What is the head of the president's administration?

[Filatov] I understand that first of all he is the organizer of the president's activities. Decrees have to be prepared. Instructions have to be prepared. Prospects and plans have to be prepared. Presidential programs have to be prepared. Analysis of movement should be done. A whole complex of work which undoubtedly implies being next to the president. It is impossible to do this work at a distance. Naturally, it is like a triangle. The higher you stand in this triangle, the closer you are to the president himself, guaranteeing his activity as president and head of state.

[Cherkizov] How many people do you have under you?

[Filatov] I cannot say at the moment— not because I can't but because I don't know exactly. I think, however, more than 2,000 people.

[Cherkizov] Do you have the right of free access to the president's office?

[Filatov] What do you mean by free?

[Cherkizov] So that you can come, open the door and say: Can I come in, Boris Nikolayevich?

[Filatov] In my opinion, no one can do this. It should not be like that. There is free access through a direct telephone line. One can telephone and agree with Boris Nikolayevich about a meeting.

[Cherkizov] So it cannot be said that you open the door to the president's office with your foot or with your knee, etc.

[Filatov] First of all, I never allow myself to do this. These things are inadmissible, in my view. [passage omitted]

[Cherkizov] Filatov went into politics at the end of 1989. He was present at the birth of Democratic Russia. He was the secretary of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet. In fall 1991, he became first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Soft, intelligent, hardworking. He likes work to be done beautifully and meticulously. Since the early fifties he has been writing a diary. He is a sportsman—jogging, swimming, skiing. He is married with two daughters and three granddaughters. [passage omitted]

It only remains to wish you luck because I understand what an ordeal lies ahead of us—the referendum.

[Filatov] Not only the referendum. As far as I can see...

[Cherkizov, interrupting] Then all the rest—constitution, elections, and so on.

[Filatov] I would like very much that some small victories should start to appear. We need hope. We should show people that there are some victories. If they are there it would be much easier for all of us. For all of us.

[Cherkizov] There is nothing surprising in Filatov's new appointment, or rather in the president's choice. This year will not be easy for Yeltsin and he simply needs a reliable, loyal head of administration. A person, who, as they say, does not bend his back is needed. Filatov is undoubtedly such a man. One of the founders of the Democratic Russia movement and head of the president's administration, Sergey Filatov is the personality of the week.

Chernomyrdin Signs Orders To Raise Prices for Gas

OW0102135593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1239 GMT 01 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on 29 January signed government legislation in accordance with which the state-regulated internal wholesale price for natural gas is to be raised by three times, from 1,200 to 3,600 rubles per thousand cubic meters without value-added tax (these prices are fixed for gas-extracting enterprises). When costs added by organizations involved in oil marketing are taken into account, the price paid by the final industrial consumers of natural gas is likely to be 4,000 rubles per thousand cubic meters without value-added tax.

The same legislation specifies that the price paid by the population for natural gas will increase by more than twofold, from 250 to 600 rubles per thousand cubic meters. Similarly, the price for home and water heating gas is to be doubled.

The new level of gas prices was the result of a compromise between the Russian Committee on Prices and the gas concern Gasprom, which had insisted on an increase in wholesale gas prices to 4,300 rubles per thousand cubic meters, saying that only at this price level would the gas industry remain profitable. The agreement reached was predicated on the possible revision of gas prices in five months' time with a possible allowance made for inflation.

The legislation emphasizes that the sale of gas by any organization or exchange at greater than the regulated price "will be regarded as a violation of state price discipline." As for gas prices for commonwealth states, the legislations stipulates that under inter-governmental agreements, no gas deliveries are to be made for less than 13,000 rubles per thousand cubic meters without value-added tax. "In the absence of such agreements, or the absence within such agreements of arrangements on energy resource prices," gas payments would be made at world prices translated into rubles at the average current rate of ruble-dollar exchange for the quarter. Considering that the average world price is approximately $80 per thousand cubic meters, the ruble price for gas would come to 40,000-50,000 rubles.

Problems in Privatization Process Noted

PM2901141993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Jan 93 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Vladimir Sluzhakov report under the "Privatization" rubric: "Roulette Game for 150 Million"]

[Text] Parliament today is to extend the validity of the 1992 privatization program pending the adoption of a similar law for 1993.

The decision will most probably be adopted, since the legal vacuum which has formed has placed not just the economic courts in a difficult position, but the subjects of privatization too. Admittedly, it is not clear who is to be blamed for the costs of this extension. After all, according to the law the program should be submitted to the Supreme Soviet a month before the budget is examined—that is, back in November. But probably the government had no time to do this because of the political skirmishes at the Congress of People's Deputies.

Anatoliy Chubays has already taken several preemptive steps. First, he has proclaimed that his program has the unconditional support of Viktor Chernomyrdin, even though the new premier has in practice not once spoken out publicly on this issue since his appointment. Second, at the prompting of the State Committee for the Management of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo], the so far unsuccessful and therefore stalled draft law on priority for labor collectives in privatization is being galvanized. It is a monster capable of wrecking the glorious program.

Moreover, the Goskomimushchestvo chairman has proven over the past year that in certain circumstances he is capable of changing his point of view. Suffice it to recall that the number of privatization methods was nevertheless increased to three. And privatization accounts, which privatizers at first refused to hear of, were introduced all the same, admittedly transformed into privatization checks under which the state now bears no commitments.

Thus expressions like "I will not permit alterations to the program" are probably being uttered for psychological effect. Content-wise things will be much more complex if the deputies take the trouble to seek independent expert advice on the document presented by the government. Without this the hearings will inevitably be reduced to a political clash and be confined to minor textual amendments.

Yet the new privatization program should legitimize the voucher's monopoly as the sole means of payment in the privatization process and as a means of laundering shady business money. The ruble [R] has been left a small share in municipal property so that local budgets have some means of patching up the holes. Outlay on voucher auctions, the first wave of which are scheduled to take place before spring, is estimated at between R100 and R120 billion. And it is planned to obtain income of R300 billion from privatization. This sum probably does not take account of the fact that for each voucher the municipalities receive for their property, R300 will have to be paid to them from heaven only knows what funds. Remuneration for experts from the International Financial Corporation, allegedly financed by the U.S. Government, and other such structures advising on how best to conduct privatization also costs money, not to mention the many thousands of staffers on property management committees. Nevertheless, without going into details, Anatoliy Chubays gave assurances that budget resources for privatization will not be required. Although in the Volgograd Oblast property fund does not feel such optimism ahead of the forthcoming voucher auctions.

Any check-holder is interested primarily in making the right choice of enterprise. But he is unlikely to receive any guarantees here. Even such a profitable enterprise as the Kama Truck Plant gave a dividend of only 20 percent to its shareholders last year. Meanwhile, according to expert forecasts, the number of potential bankrupts out of a total of 5,000 enterprises undergoing flotation will fluctuate in the region of 12 to 16 percent. Anatoliy Chubays could not give the exact figure at a recent briefing, citing the fact that under the restructuring of industry this share will be determined

by the market alone. So the whole country stands to play roulette, but in each individual population center, as there is no point whatever in traveling even 500 km to the auction of an enterprise which appeals to you with, say, three vouchers in your pocket. You will scarcely be able to acquire even one share in a prestigious enterprise with these checks—you'll have to club together with the neighbors.

Government's Kalinin Addresses Agroconference

PM2901154593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Jan 93 p 2

[Valeriy Konovalov report: "Chernomyrdin Government Intends To Stabilize Agricultural Production in 1993"]

[Text] The international conference entitled "Prospects for Agrarian Reform: Strategy for the Transitional Period" has started its work in Moscow. It was organized by the "Peace and Food" international nongovernmental commission, the "Gorbachev Foundation," and the Russian Agricultural Academy's Agrarian Institute. The participants include representatives of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, the International Institute for Development and Economic Research, Academicians L. Abalkin, O. Bogomolov, A. Nikonov, and N. Petrakov, and other well-known Russian and foreign scientists.

Mikhail Gorbachev, one of the conference organizers, has been almost the most active participant in its debates. He made an extremely critical assessment of the current situation in Russian agriculture and the government's agrarian policy. In Gorbachev's opinion, the reforms have been poorly prepared and are being carried out inconsistently, in isolation from the whole range of problems. "Without an active role being taken by the government," he said, "it is impossible to switch to a market system in the agrarian sphere. And leaving the countryside to its fate is the road to real famine." Mikhail Sergeyevich was fairly self-critical here: "I consider it my biggest miscalculation that we did not take agriculture as the starting point of the reform process, and that we stopped halfway."

On Gorbachev's insistence the conference floor was given to Aleksandr Kalinin, leader of the government apparatus' agro-industrial complex department, for a report on what the Russian Government is now doing and planning in agrarian reform. While sharing the former USSR president's concern over the current situation in the Russian countryside, Kalinin stated that reform has nevertheless brought considerable results and that the Chernomyrdin government does not intend to curtail it but, on the contrary, will continue and develop it and in doing so will take account of the demands of the last Congress of People's Deputies.

First and foremost a major step was taken last year in developing private land ownership. There are now 48 million land plots—8 percent of all agricultural areas—in the hands of private owners, 180,000 private farms on which around 0.5 million Russian citizens work are in operation, and 77 percent of kolkhozes and sovkhozes have been reorganized, two-thirds of them having chosen new forms of management. During the past year the principles of state regulation of the agricultural economy have been defined, the main agricultural operations have been carried out despite all the difficulties, and for the first time in recent years there has been no reduction in sown areas.

At the moment, Kalinin reported, elaboration of the main areas of state regulation of the agricultural economy for 1993 is being completed. A further weakening of the state's role in the distribution of agricultural output is envisaged and the goods producers themselves will be given wide-ranging freedom here. A presidential edict and government decree have been prepared which, in essence, scrap mandatory deliveries of output to the state. Federal and regional food stocks will be formed. It is likely that in a number of regions local authorities, exercising their rights, will adopt decisions on mandatory deliveries of output to the regional stocks, but this principle is being scrapped as a state policy. The state will stimulate peasants' participation in the federal stock's formation only by economic methods.

Subsidies for livestock raising products will be retained this year, and they will be regularly index-linked. But the approach will be now differentiated—taking account of farms' efficiency and specific characteristics.

The government intends to provide preferential credit to peasants in 1993. The difference between a 25-percent rate and the bank interest rate will be made up from state resources. Moreover, this year a single level will obviously be established for all forms of farm.

It is is envisaged that up to 30 percent of the cost of mineral fertilizers will be reimbursed by the state. Likewise up to 50 percent of the cost of agricultural equipment, but only on delivery of output to the federal stock.

All these measures are aimed at solving what Kalinin sees as the government's main task in the agricultural sphere for this year—bringing about the stabilization of agricultural production.

Furthermore, it is proposed to introduce advance credit for producers of grain and oilseed crops in order to reduce the effect of inflation. Up to 50 percent of insurance payments in the agricultural economy will be borne by the state.

The government is preparing for submission to parliament a question on setting up an agro-industrial complex finance fund which will, among other things, make it possible to implement social programs in the countryside.

Economist Criticizes 'Weak' Draft Budget

PM2901161193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 93 p 4

[Economist Yuriy Gorskiy article: "Weak Draft Budget Strengthens Parliament's Positions"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet is examining the draft budget for 1993. Despite the fact that the discussion has not yet been completed, the speaker of parliament has assured the government that the budget will not be adopted in its present form.

The examination of the budget will evidently serve as grounds for a new attack on the government, during which the latter could be finally subordinated to parliament. The success scored by the Supreme Soviet with its adoption of the Law on the Government will thus be taken to its logical conclusion.

Let us remind you that the adoption of this law signified, in point of fact, a "quiet" start to turning the presidential republic into a parliamentary one.

By delaying the budget's adoption as long as possible, parliament will preserve the present situation, whereby it, while wielding virtually complete state power and having a tremendous impact on Russia's situation, does not shoulder the least responsibility for this situation.

It has to be pointed out, however, that the poor quality of the draft budget which has been submitted is a real help to aspirations of this kind. Suffice it to say that it is based on a forecast prepared by the Ministry of the Economy, the efficiency of whose activity is legendary. The sadly famous decree limiting profitability, which did more than all the congresses put together to undermine the prestige of the executive, emerged from deep within precisely this department. Here is just one brush stroke: The draft supposes that prices will double in 1993 (in 1992, not counting the January takeoff, they increased at least 1,200 percent), including an increase of 30 percent in the first quarter (a level which will certainly be exceeded already before the month of January is out).

It is perfectly obvious that a document which proceeds from such premises is of no practical significance and can be regarded only as a declaration of intent.

But even these intentions give rise to serious questions.

It is splendid that the unrealistic task of radically reducing the budget deficit at any price is not even implied in the draft being examined (which provides for an increase in the consolidated budget deficit from 9.5 percent of the total level of budget expenditure in 1992 to 12.2 percent in 1993). It is reassuring that the task of surmounting the investment crisis has at last been realized at a state level and even included in the list of priorities. But the most important element in the encouragement of investment policy—tax exemption for all invested profits—is not reflected in the draft budget.

On the other hand, it provides for anti-inflationary policy measures which are known to be ineffective and which go not to limit prices but merely to depress production and to fan inflation in outlay. Among them I could name the 50-percent tax on an above-normative increase in labor remuneration, similar to the sadly well-known one of Abalkin's, the excise regulation of oil prices, and the proposed reinstatement of the restriction on maximum profitability.

Most acute, however, will be the political question of the correlation between the federal budget and the territories' budget. In actual fact, this is a question of power. In Russia today the correlation of forces between the executive and the legislature is determined not so much by congresses and laws as by the attitude of the local authorities. Whomever they support is supported by Russia. Both the government and parliament are seeking to win them over.

But the position of parliament as an organ invested with a vanishing minimum of responsibility is politically preferable.

The budget's authors were able to promise the territories one thing: to complete work in 1993 on delimiting the republic budget and the regions' budgets and also to "examine the question" of forming nonbudget funds not at the federal level but at the regional or interregional level. It is obvious that this is not enough.

At the same time provision is made for a certain reduction in the income of local budgets. This will inevitably provoke resistance from the territories' representatives. Tension will also be increased by the proposal to raise the ceilings for differentiating the rates of VAT deductions into local budgets from 20-30 to 5-50 percent [figures as published]. Even a discussion of this idea will sharply increase pressure from the territories being "done out of their fair share" and could bring about a new relapse into the budget war.

There is no doubt that the local authorities' likely displeasure will be used by the leadership of parliament as a trump card in the political game aimed at the complete subordination of the executive.

The budget in its present form creates preconditions for ensuring that this game succeeds and that Russia's future is tragic.

Modified SS-25 To Be Used To Launch Satellite

PM2901143393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jan 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Dolinin report: "RS-12M Loaded... With a Satellite"]

[Text] The time seems to have come when the ballistic missiles currently on alert status will be used for purely peaceful purposes after appropriate modification, for commercial launches for instance. This is no longer something out of the realms of fantasy, but a question of quite feasible plans. Thus a satellite is expected to be launched quite soon from the Mirnyy test range. It will be put into near-earth orbit by the "Start I" space rocket complex, which is closely related to the well known combat RS-12M.

The designers of the RS-12M mobile missile complex (known in Western terminology as the SS-25) until recently would hardly have thought there would come a time when they would have to adapt their single-warhead three-stage solid-fuel ICBM to launch satellites. But this February or March that may become a reality. The process of converting the complex fully meets the requirements of the Russian-U.S. strategic offensive arms reduction and limitation treaties.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent was told by Lev Semenovich, deputy general designer at the organization

that developed this technology, that the delivery vehicle is capable of putting a payload of roughly 300 kg into a circular orbit at an altitude of around 700 km, while its maximum potential is for over half a ton.

The idea of making use of Russia's mobile missile complexes now seems one of the most commercially promising. According to the forecasts, so far several hundred potential customers worldwide are interested in the "Start I" complex launching light satellites.

The following question arises: In time won't the complex itself and the missile adapted for space launches be bought and sold? This missile's counterpart is on alert status. Specialists emphasize that this option is precluded. It is only launch services that are on offer. The preparatory work will be carried out by military specialists who will accompany the "Start I" complex to and from the launchpad. They are responsible for the technical maintenance work. What benefit do the military derive from this? There are promises of good remuneration for the work. The funds will not go to everyone individually, but into a common fund. If as a result the missilemen get more apartments and kindergartens—something on which the earnings can be spent—the idea of the "Start I" project should be regarded with all seriousness.

Supreme Soviet

Leaders Address Supreme Soviet Meetings 28-29 Jan

Khasbulatov Speaks on Draft Budget

LD2901193493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2045 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Address by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov to the Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 28 January—recorded; from the "At the Supreme Soviet" program]

[Text] I have a few thoughts. The first thing, respected colleagues, is that of course one must note the very serious work that has been done to prepare this budget message. A very great amount of work was carried out with our regions. Virtually all the committees and commissions took part in this work. A large number of specialists were invited to take part. The budget-control committee, the budget commission, with the Ministry of Finance, and with the Supreme Economic Council organized this very serious work.

But at the same time, today we observe very serious shortcomings. They are there not just by chance. The point is that if, when the Gaydar government presented it, the quality of the draft had been at the present level—as we see it now—then, of course, the picture would have been different.

The point is that from the point of view of quality—evidently (Polunina) and [Planning and Budget Commission Chairman Aleksandr] Pochinok will correct me if I am wrong—the presented version of the budget was much worse than even last year's version. It was drawn up in haste with sections that do not hold together.

As it stands today, one way or another it has been very seriously worked on and one must really note that Mariya Semenovna is right that this year work on it was a team effort. There was not the estrangement and the elements of unpleasantness in the work of government officials and members of the government that we observed in the previous period.

But at the same time, very serious shortcomings still predominate. It says absolutely nothing about reducing state expenditure. This is rising sharply—not only expenditure on the national economy—and all the more so since from the point of view of program provision it is very insignificant. What is increasing in expenditure is the section devoted to the bureaucratic state administrative apparatus, including the production apparatus. This does not at all demonstrate any weakening of the role of the state and the state bureaucracy, when the production apparatus increases.

The budget message should be permeated with the idea of cutting costs, a cost-cutting regime; and the example should be set by the top echelons of power.

In this sense, one must be precise in the wording of the next article of the decision to prohibit the financing of any federal organization from state budget funds created without the consent of the Supreme Soviet. Therefore, if there is a need to finance them—and I do not doubt there is—most of these departments that have been created under the president must be helped to establish themselves and so on. There is no doubt about that. But let them be included in the government structure.

Between a first and second reading the structure of the federal government must definitely be approved. And it must be clearly defined what it is and what comprises the composition and structure of the federal government. Otherwise, the point of it is lost, and then we should not kid ourselves that we will be controlling anything, and so on. So, in the next few days, let the government present exactly what it is supposed to; the Congress has been long gone. It has long been necessary for the government to present us with the appropriate structures and for them to be approved as soon as the amendments to the Constitution are adopted. What is there to wait for? To keep reminding, to keep asking, right? To write more letters? How many times have I said: Present your own ministers for approval, present your structure of government?

To continue: Of course the budget must not be approved if only for one simple reason: Aleksandr Petrovich [Pochinok], I really do not understand you. Where is the hard currency section of the budget? How many times does one have to speak about this? How many times? Who looks after the hard currency in our country? Who? What is the point of discussing empty rubles from early morning to late in the evening? And no one raised the point that the state still has hard currency! [Voice heard shouting: What do you mean,

did not raise the point?] Yes, well, we have spoken about gold, but where, why not as a part of the budget? Who looks after it?

This is impermissible. And approving the budget in either the first or second reading cannot even be considered. [noise from the floor] Wait, wait, please. Of course we will vote on this, this is clear. I have in mind its shortcomings. What is it? We have been saying this for quite some time. We are again presented with some kind of attempts. Some people are referring to the Politburo, but no Politburo could have ever had worse style and methods of work than our Supreme Soviet.

Further, what else should be mentioned here? Other expenses were absolutely correctly mentioned. Of course, the possibilities are limited and one should not have the suspicion that someone is deliberately trying to make a mess of some articles. I for one do not suspect anyone of this. Nevertheless, these other expenses on such a gigantic scale are simply impermissible. They should be clearly specified in writing. The same applies to the main expenses, for instance, on the upkeep of Ostankino or Russian television, which should be put down clearly in writing. I would not criticize newspapers on this account. We should give more assistance to newspapers, this is absolutely clear. But the thing is that they should not be made dependent on a good minister or a bad minister, although such attempts are being made. They should be made dependent on the law, regardless of whether successive ministers or parliaments are good.

Therefore, Aleksandr Petrovich, we must be quite clear—you and I spoke about that. For instance, take such a situation—perhaps I am wrong, but let us say—there are 25,000 people working at Ostankino. There are 5,500 people working at the Russian television company. The volume of work is approximately the same, approximately the same. One wonders, should we know that or not? Well, if it should be known, why haven't these articles been singled out. Then, in Minsk, the heads of governments and states signed the relevant agreement on setting up such an interstate television and radio company. The Russian share in it—I think our contribution to it—has been determined. I am not sure whether it is a relevant part or the whole of Ostankino. But, well, we must know who will contribute how much and how much we should contribute to that international television and radio company, and what will remain, what we are to finance. It is proposed that we should transfer something to someone somewhere en masse. And then the minister of the press will be a very good person if, at the expense of the state budget and, in other words, at the expense of the people's resources, he will give to some but not to others. For instance, on a trip to an oblast, I discovered a newspaper where all it does is find shortcomings. It has a print-run of 250,000 copies, and they are delivered to their readers free of charge, absolutely free of charge, but naturally from the resources of the federal budget.

Do you see how clever we are? That is to say all of that must be implemented by breaking things down [drobleniye], which we spoke of in the budget. Let there be two volumes, three volumes, four volumes, as is being done already in many states. There isn't anything bad here. Things must be broken down. Just—as you rightly said, Aleksandr Petrovich—as was done with regard to the budget in the Supreme Soviet, according to precise articles.

But the idea of economizing must be in everything and must run through everything. Therefore, the creation of new departments, of some kind of new structures, some benefits, and so forth should go through legislative bodies alone, through the Supreme Soviet, and in no other way. Otherwise we will not succeed in anything. There will be no reforms. Nothing will make headway, and the state of affairs will get worse. I do not know if you have looked at the cost of running the parliamentary television. According to the proposals that I have it will require quite a high budget. That is why this should also be discussed, including its hard currency portion. Those are some of the remarks—naturally, I cannot go through all of them—but those are some of the remarks made regarding the decision that really has to be adopted today in this form or another.

Finance Minister Barchuk's Address

LD2901195093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2122 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Speech by Vasiliy Vasilyevich Barchuk, finance minister of the Russian Federation, at the Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 28 January; from the "At the Supreme Soviet" program—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed chairman, esteemed people's deputies: The budget message for 1993, submitted at the end of November, has been comprehensively examined by the Supreme Soviet's committees and commissions. During this period, in accordance with the Supreme Soviet decision of 25 December last year, the government has submitted more precise definitions of the individual indicators presented previously in the budget message. The amplifications were occasioned, basically, by the changes in tax legislation adopted at the end of December last year, and also as a result of the adoption of decisions by the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, the president, and the Supreme Soviet on socioeconomic matters, which led to additional budget expenditure. Apart from that, amplifications have also been submitted as regards the interrelations of the federal budget and the budgets of the subjects of the federation, both through making more precise the income...[changes thought] by forecasting under the income and expenses heads, and through reviewing the normative enactments on the distribution of taxes between the federal budget and the budgets of the territories.

As a result of the amplifications that have been made, the total volume of the income of the consolidated budget has been increased by almost 3.6 trillion rubles [R], or by 25 percent, and amounts to, the income base amounts to R17.5 trillion. Expenditure has been increased by R3.8 trillion, and the total amount comprises, according to the amplified draft budget for 1993, R20.7 trillion. The federal budget deficit has increased, as a result of the amplifications, by R624 billion and amounts in toto to R3.492 trillion. In the budgets of the subjects of the federation, the excess of

income over expenses has increased by R423 billion, and the total amount of the calculated forecast excess of income over expenses will comprise R1.235 trillion.

[Reporter] Then Finance Minister Barchuk dwelt in greater detail on the framing of the revenue part of the budget.

[Barchuk] Under the heading of the income of physical persons, bearing in mind the deep differentiation of citizens' personal incomes, there is, to all appearances, a need to review the rates of tax on the incomes of physical persons, especially on high incomes, on those persons who have, by our current standards, and bearing in mind the present situation, as they say, very high incomes. Solving the problem of taxing the income of street stallholders also requires immediate action.

Esteemed people's deputies, I have dwelt in detail on the problems of framing the budget's revenue base. Now I shall move on to a more painful topic—the expenditure part of our budget.

The expenditure part of the budget message and the subsequent amplifications of its indicators were determined primarily by the primacy of the direction of the development of the economy, ensuring the financing of the so-called inevitable expenses—they are for maintaining the already existing network of budget-financed institutions and measures—and also proceeding from the existing revenue base and from a budget deficit that is economically acceptable at the present stage.

Quite recently, literally two or three days ago, the government made a decision on some problems in agriculture requiring urgent measures. In the amplified budget, R150 billion are envisaged for implementing that decision. Apart from that, allocations have been increased by R172 billion for compensating for the differences in the interest [protsenty] given to agriculture. In accordance with the Supreme Soviet decision stabilizing the price of bread in the first quarter, provision was made, when the budget was being amplified, for allocations to grain subsidies amounting to R207 billion.

Budget expenditure on socio-cultural measures, pensions, and benefits has been increased by R640 billion. Apart from that, the budget makes provision for allocations amounting to R237 billion to boost expenditure on raising the minimum wage and the introduction of a single pay scale. Naturally, when we have more or less concrete information on the matter, a part of this sum will be transferred to the budgets of the territories.

Esteemed people's deputies, you have already examined the budget message in your committees and commissions. You will, apparently, further examine the amplifications that have been made to the drafting of the budget, and, undoubtedly, many questions will, naturally, occur to you, as well as some proposals as regards increasing the allocations. I repeat once again that many demands of the committees and commissions are, undoubtedly, justified. The government itself is worried about the state of affairs at a whole series of enterprises and, primarily, about the social sphere. There are, however, simple conditions for increasing expenditure. They are new taxes or the increasing of the current rates and scales, the redistribution of expenditure between articles—taking from one and giving to another—or increasing the budget deficit. Admittedly, there is one other way, but attempts have somehow been made in recent times to put it to one side. That is the effectiveness and rationality of the use of funds already allocated. Undoubtedly, the first two means amount to an activity that is unrewarding and unpopular. The simplest and, at first glance, most readily available means is to increase the budget deficit. I ask you, esteemed people's deputies, to notice once again that the federal budget deficit is already envisaged as amounting to R3.5 trillion.

At the same time, some revenue is already being queried. For example, contributions to the price regulation fund are envsaged as totalling R1.1 trillion. The government is now considering the question of sharply reducing it in order to restrain the price of oil. If the measure generates the result we intend so as to stabilize the price of oil or, at least, sharply reduce the pace of its growth, then I think that the measure will be more realistic.

The revenue in the form of deductions from the labor remuneration fund through the redistribution of scale deductions to the pension fund is still being queried. That is also over R1 trillion.

We also expect additional expenditure resulting from the raising of the minimum wage. Whether we want it or not, raising the minimum level of pensions will, after a certain tim[illegible], lead us all to raising the minimum level of pay.

Yesterday, a program for the radiation rehabilitation of the Urals region was adopted, which requires considerable additional budget allocations. We shall be unable even to cover the deficit that is envisaged in the draft budget by civilized methods—through the issue of state securities—since its size is not commensurate with the existing accumulations either among the population or among the economic management subjects. Consequently, the main part is an emissions method for covering it with all the resulting consequences. I ask you, when examining the draft budget, to take these circumstances into account. Thank you.

Economics Minister Nechayev Questioned

LD2901210893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2045 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Question and answer session by Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev with People's Deputies Tikhonov and Sayenko at the Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 28 January; from the "At the Supreme Soviet" program—recorded]

[Text] [Tikhonov] Tikhonov. Two questions: First, last year in this same hall you reported to us your forecast for socio-economic development in 1992. As we know, that forecast turned out to be quite wrong and we had far more deplorable results than your report predicted. So what reason have we today to believe you when you say that this forecast is also realistic, than it is also not fanciful? That is

my first question, in other words, on what grounds should we believe you today? After all, these are not just words: they are calculations, and policy, and all the rest. The second question: We know from the media that, in civilized countries, the government, or particular ministers, having found themselves in an untenable position, resign—even for less considerable reasons. So would you tell us, please: Are our media misinforming us, or what is stopping you from departing in a civilized way?

[Nechayev] Well, as to the forecast: I said at the beginning of my speech that unfortunately the forecast of the Ministry of the Economy which was officially presented in the framework of the last budget message turned out almost accurate. If you open the budget message and look at the figures for this year, you will see that for yourself. That may be cause for professional pride, though of course it gives no pleasure that the forecast of a slump and the forecast for many other indices have turned out to be correct, on a declining wave, so to speak. So as regards resigning, I do not know who your remarks referred to. This is, as it were, a scientific [word indistinct].

[Sayenko] Mr. Minister, I took no pleasure in the announcement that you have made here with professional pride, that you have based the program— the federal programs—on a program for deepening the economic reforms which was approved by the Supreme Soviet. Allow me to tell you that the Supreme Soviet approved no such program. I also get the impression that you do not acknowledge the result of the Seventh Congress either—you are going your own way. The main thing is that you have not addressed your forecast to the human individual. You could not care less about the family budget; you could not care less about the growth of the family—the growth of the prosperity of the Russian family; you do not give a damn about the democratic picture in Russia. Why are you making this forecast? You have no economic policy. I have three specific questions: Why is it that in your economic forecast and budget message—deliberately or not—you have not shown the dynamics or the share of industrial investments in the total volume of the internal gross product? How does this picture look in 1993 compared with 1992 in your forecast? That is the first question. The second is why, in your economic forecast, analyzing the efficiency of our economy in 1992, did you not say what was the efficiency of the use of favorable credits and tax credits, and the analysis of the efficiency of the use of the investments that we made in 1992? A third question: On what basis have you determined your priorities? After all, it is the Supreme Soviet that must decide priorities. Yes, you fear that these are the correct priorities, because from the point of view of an normal economy, if engineering is a priority, then that economy is hopeless.

[Nechayev] Well, from the budget it was—from the consolidated budget in the order of 500 billion, with all the adjustments, given that the gross internal product was about 15 trillion. So as for the priorities, when working out the priorities for 1993 we tried to combine certain strategic tasks, certain general views of the economy which we want to arrive at—namely, a demilitarized economy, a socially oriented economy—with the tactical tasks that, unfortunately, we have to resolve: in particular, the measures to support the fuel and power complex of which I spoke and which are envisaged. They can be seen as measures of a tactical nature, but if we do not realize them, if we do not normalize the situation in oil extraction, then through falling imports this threatens us with great losses throughout the national economy. As for—yes, now I remember, I am sorry, your first question, I am grateful to you for it, though of course I am not grateful for your introduction. You put it quite fairly, and we now—and I tried to say this in my speech—we will now be tightening to the limit the control over the use of centralized credits.

Budget Committee Chairman Speaks

LD2901220693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2045 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Remarks by Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Planning and Budget Committee, to the Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 28 January—recorded; from the "At the Supreme Soviet" program]

[Text] The most formidable, most important, and most necessary problem in the 1993 budget is investment policy, the acquisition of funds for investment, the acquisition of funds for economic restructuring. Otherwise we will not emerge from this crisis. There has been a sea of change in the structure of budget spending. I would very much like to draw your attention to an extremely serious problem that you and I are encountering for the first time. What is this problem? The problem is the fact that the share of budget spending in the country's gross domestic product is sharply increasing. In 1992 the state's budget spending was 43 percent of the gross domestic product. But now, in the 1993 budget, this has risen to 47.2 percent.

What can we do about the budget now? First and foremost, of course, it is essential to talk about the revenue side. Yes, it is essential to achieve better collection of taxes. I would ask you to note the following: After the Supreme Soviet began to take a detailed interest in the problem of taxes and began, last July, to apply very harsh, very unpopular decisions on tax collection, just see how the situation began to change. During the first half year we gathered 880 billion [currency not specified] in taxes. During the third quarter we gathered 1.1 trillion. During the fourth quarter the figure was 2.7 trillion. This increase is faster than the rate of price increases. The tax inspectors have begun to work effectively, even though there are a large number of complaints to be levelled against them. No, they do not complete the collection job properly. In his report today, the minister of finance was quite right to make a whole series of proposals on ways of tightening up the tax collection system and taxing those who currently evade payment. We must continue our policy of reinforcing the tax service, of taxing street traders, of introducing cash registers everywhere, of making absolutely sure that enterprises pay taxes. This really has to be done.

Furthermore, it is essential to tap fresh sources of revenue. In this respect the Supreme Soviet quite rightly proposed that a law on the state monopoly on vodka and other spirits

should be examined and adopted. This will be an additional source of revenue. It is time we remembered that there are state assets that the state can exploit. Do not forget that we have an extremely serious budget situation, that we are sustaining enormous losses, and that the privatization program will involve further enormous expenditure. Germany's experience showed that restructuring of privatized enterprises is colossally expensive. So how can it be that for the third year running we have forgotten that we have profitable enterprises from which we can derive revenue? So—and here the prime minister is absolutely right—we really must move urgently to amend the law on state enterprises and a range of other laws that allow us to obtain revenue from state enterprises. We should get our revenue and, furthermore, receive our dividends too. Why shouldn't we secure this revenue? After all, the state has shares in these enterprises. So, the Federal Property Fund must intervene decisively here. It must not tolerate the pilfering of state assets at a time when the budget situation is so serious.

Customs regulation in Russia, as a whole, must be sorted out. This will also be an additional source of revenue. Yes, we must take a look at the regulation of wage funds. Here too there are opportunities for additional revenue. Another source—both on the revenue side and the expenditure side—would be a solution to the problem of the state debt. You and I have an obligation to examine the proposals made by the government and Central Bank and to adopt a decision on the state debt. We must establish the size of this debt and define the procedures for repaying it, define the undertakings that need to be given if the debt is to be serviced. This must be done. Otherwise, it will go on snowballing.

This is the work that we propose should be done, and this is the decision—it has been circulated to you—that we propose be adopted. Then, in collaboration with the government, we will be able to propose a realistic budget, which takes account of all the wishes of the committees and commissions—a budget with realistic revenue proposals and a very austere expenditure side; a budget shorn of those superfluous expenditures that give rise to dispute; a budget that also incorporates the notorious hard currency section about which we have spoken so much already.

Highlights of 29 Jan Supreme Soviet Proceedings

LD3001092293

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2031 GMT on 29 January carries a 30-minute recorded highlights of the 29 January Russian Supreme Soviet proceedings in Moscow.

Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Commission on Budgets, Plans, Taxes, and Prices, is called to speak. He dwells on some changes to the wording of the budget message for 1993 that deal with the relationship between the federal budget and the budgets of the constituent republics.

After a discussion of procedural points, an unidentified deputy introduces a resolution on the procedure for deduction of taxes and other levies from incomes, with regard to the minimum wage levels in force for state-sector and non-state-sector employees. The resolution is voted on: 148 vote in favor, none vote against, and there are 3 abstentions. The resolution is passed.

The deputies then consider a draft law distributed to deputies on 29 January dealing with value-added tax [VAT] payments in and between CIS states. An unidentified deputy reports that no agreements have been reached between CIS states yet, and some have set VAT levels higher than others. These discrepancies, he says, mean that Russia is subsidizing the goods of other countries in cross-border trade. Enactment of the draft law titled "On the Introduction of Amendments to the Law of the Russian Federation on Value Added Tax" is voted on: 73 vote in favor, none vote against, and there are no abstentions.

A resolution of the Supreme Soviet on the Application of the Law on Value-Added Tax is then voted on: 165 vote in favor, none vote against, and there are no abstentions.

The debate then moves on to amendments made by President Yeltsin to a Supreme Soviet resolution on military service. A commentator informs us that deputies have proceeded to debate pension provisions for military and Interior Ministry servicemen. Extracts from some impassioned speeches are shown. A vote is held on instructing Pochinok to calculate pensions due to various ranks, in conjunction with the Defense Ministry, and then to forward the law to the Finance Ministry for a cost analysis. Voting figures are not shown. The morning session ends.

Highlights from the evening session begin with a debate on a resolution on state expenditures for February 1993. A vote is held on Yeltsin's amendments to the military service law. The amendments fail to gain the required majority; again the voting figures are not shown. A commission is established to consider the matter further.

An unidentified deputy then speaks on a Supreme Soviet message to the rump Yugoslavia, appealing for an end to the fighting. Deputies debate it, and decide to postpone consideration.

Resolution on Financing State Spending Adopted

LD2901194693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1855 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—The Russian parliament adopted today a resolution "on financing state spending from budgets of the Russian Federation in February, 1993."

The government shall have the right in the first quarter of this year to monthly finance programs and arrangements in the amount of one twelfth of the allocations envisaged by a specified draft republican budget of the Russian Federation in 1993, introduced by the government, and monthly inform the parliament on the financing.

The government shall have no right to finance federal power and management bodies at the expense of money from the

Russian republican budget without coordination with the Supreme Soviet, says the resolution.

"The Russian government has not fulfilled the decision of the Seventh People's Deputies Congress in the part of presenting the Supreme Soviet a set of measures to overcome the crisis social-economic situation," says the document.

The Russian president has been offered to make a budget message for 1994 at a joint meeting of the parliament chambers in early May, 1993, and submit a specified draft budget for 1994 for consideration of the Supreme Soviet no later than September 15, 1993.

Decree Says New Tax Rates To Apply Starting 1 Jan

MK3001130393 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Taxes Will Be Revised"]

[Text] Taxes whose rate was pegged to the minimum wage level (as is well known, the minimum wage has increased from 900 rubles [R] to R2,250) will be revised. This is stated in a Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decree "On the Procedure for Deduction of Taxes, Dues, and Other Payments Taking Into Account the Minimum Level of Labor Remuneration Set for the First Quarter of 1993," adopted at yesterday's Russian parliament session.

As Sergey Shatalov, secretary of the parliamentary plan and budget commission, explained, the R2,250 minimum was established for workers in the budget-funded sector from 1 January, and for non-budget-funded organizations it comes into force during the first quarter. However, taxes will be calculated in the new way from 1 January, regardless of when this minimum was reached at a given enterprise. The document also says that for individuals this will apply to all forms of taxes, dues, and payments, while for income tax the deduction applies to all forms of taxable income received since 1 January 1993.

Budget for 1993 Returned to Government for Revision

OW2901170593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Parliament passed a resolution Friday [29 January] giving the government until February 8 to revise and detail the bill "On the Russian Federation's Budget System for 1993." The bill met with sharp criticism from deputies. They pointed out that the budget plan was poorly coordinated with the goals of the government's economic policy. Parliamentarians expressed special dissatisfaction with the fact that the budget draft presented to parliament did not contain the currency portion of the budget. They demanded that the revised version contain this information.

In addition, the Supreme Soviet advised the Russian government reach an agreement with parliament before February 15 on the list of federal organs of power and administration to be financed by the republic's budget. After February 15, financing of structures not approved by deputies will be cut off. Apparently, the financing of the Federal Information Center, which is headed by Mikhail Poltoranin and was formed by presidential decree in December, 1992, will also require parliament's consent.

The resolution also contains a provision on cutting off financing to the institution of presidential representatives in the provinces. In December, 1992, the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies recommended that the president abolish this institution.

Parliament determined the procedures for operations on 1994's budget, proposing that the president present the budget memorandum at a joint session of the Supreme Soviet in the beginning of May and then submit a detailed draft of the 1994 budget no later than September 15.

Khasbulatov for Early Presidential, Parliamentary Elections

LD2901172393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1503 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—Russian parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov wants to hold early presidential and parliamentary elections in spring of 1994.

Upon his proposal a corresponding item was included into the questionnaire of the April 11 nationwide referendum by the parliamentary Presidium on Friday [29 January].

Russians may have to answer whether they agree that both presidential and parliamentary elections be held simultaneously in the spring of 1994.

The term of the president expires in 1996 while that of the parliament in 1995.

The Presidium also decided to submit the draft of the basics of a new Russian constitution, which is to be voted at the referendum, for the discussion of the parliament next week.

Khasbulatov said that his proposal allows the voters to make their choice as the prestige of the legislative and executive branches of authority is falling.

"By raising the question on elections the current deputies' corps show that they are not grabbing power," he told the presidium.

The idea of the referendum was first advanced by President Boris Yeltsin in his crucial speech at the latest Congress of People's Deputies. He accused legislators of a "creeping coup" then and appealed to the people to call a referendum on who is to run the country, the president or the legislature.

However, Yeltsin and Khasbulatov later agreed on a compromise and announced a referendum on the basics of a new Russian constitution.

The draft of the basic principles submitted for the discussion of the parliament consists of 12 items.

Presidium Supports Proposal

OW2901145393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1433 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament's presidium has backed Ruslan Khasbulatov's proposal on supplementing the provisions of the April referendum with the issue of simultaneous elections of people's deputies and president.

The presidium's resolution on the draft provisions of the new Constitution figuring in the referendum on April 11, which was adopted on Friday, is expected to be considered by parliament next week.

Khasbulatov proposed that during the referendum, the citizens should be asked to answer the question: "Do you agree that in the spring of 1994 simultaneous elections of people's deputies and president should be held?" Motivating his proposal, Khasbulatov said he feared lest the referendum might be a total failure as it might fail to involve the required number of voters.

He thinks that if this happens, the gap in the system of state authority might be filled with extreme left-wing or extreme right-wing forces, which is clear from the on-going discussion of the constituent assembly.

Khasbulatov also said that the referendum may be a success, if the questions to be answered during it are made more attractive. In his opinion, this is possible only if the citizens are asked to state what they think about the possibility of holding early elections to both branches of authority in a year. "Both of these branches irritate the population, so let us not cherish any illusions on this score," he stated.

Khasbulatov Not To Run in 1994

LD3001095093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0848 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Podolsk, (Central Russia), 30 Jan (TASS)—"If a decision is made to hold elections in the spring of 1994, I will not be a candidate either for the post of president or for that of people's deputy," Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said today while addressing a meeting with leaders of local soviets in Moscow Oblast's Podolsk rayon. He said that he had become convinced that politics was a dirty business and that he could no longer consider taking part in it.

At the same time, the leader of parliament has expressed hope that these elections will not be used by various political forces as a means of getting even. In his opinion, heads of state should be people who are not burdened by the mistakes of past years. Khasbulatov has again called unproductive the idea of holding a referendum on the basic statutes of the Constitution. He has stressed that neither the congress nor the Russian Supreme Soviet have initiated this referendum. But since such a decision was adopted, "We are preparing for it," the head of parliament said.

Khasbulatov Committed to Proposal

OW3101171793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov has confirmed his commitment to the idea of early elections. He told the staff and cadets of the Kachinsk military aviation college on Sunday [31 January], that "the population has realized what the executive and legislative authority is worth of." "So, let them make their choice," he added.

At the end of the week, the presidium of the Russian parliament urged to include the issue of early parliamentary and presidential elections in the referendum.

Khasbulatov also said that Russia should "get used to the idea of early elections" and that such elections should be held "without revolutions or tremors, and without any tensions, fanned by various political organizations."

Khasbulatov Fears 'Coup d'Etat Might Be Attempted'

OW0102141593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Constant attacks of the executive branch on the legislative branch, probably in a bid to get rid of it, as well as attempts to shift on it the responsibility for the poor state of affairs force me to make a fairly pessimistic forecast for the next few months," Russian parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said in Volgograd, where he and Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy are taking part in festivities marking the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Army's victory in the Stalingrad Battle.

Addressing on Monday [1 February] members of the city's academic community in Volgograd University, Khasbulatov said he was afraid a coup d'etat might be attempted, adding that his fears are caused by "steps taken by some of the leaders." "In the first attempted coup we lost the Soviet Union, in a second one we may lose Russia," he said.

He expressed concern about what, he said, was an ideologization of the country's life "which didn't even exist in the Politburo's times." He said power was in the hands of people who "can't rise above kitchen-type attitudes." "Many of the decisions are now made under pressure from a very narrow left radical group of people," he said.

International Affairs

U.S. Ambassador Says Kiev's Security 'Important'

OW2901172193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1710 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The United States is interested not only in a good relationship between Ukraine and Russia, but also in stronger Kiev-Washington and Moscow-Washington ties, the US ambassador to Ukraine Roman Popadiuk has said. He was speaking in Simferopol, the Crimea, where he is on an official visit.

Ambassador Popadiuk said that Ukraine's security was important to Americans. He recalled that just recently the US Administration promised Ukraine $175 million to finance the dismantling of nuclear missiles. To utilize the highly active uranium it offered the following option: over a period of 20 years the United States would purchase 500 tons of uranium from Russia for 5.5 billion dollars. Russia, in turn, would hand over to Ukraine the profit from the sale of uranium from the warheads removed from the Ukrainian territory. Without such guarantees we will not sign a working agreement with Moscow, the US ambassador said.

The US diplomat said that his country was going to assist Ukraine in three ways: make private investment into its economy, render technical assistance and send Peace Corps members to work there. The ambassador said that next week more than 50 US volunteers would go to Ukraine to help establish small and medium businesses. Three of them will go to the Crimea. He said that the Crimean peninsula was potentially the most promising region for investment.

Visits Black Sea Fleet Base

LD3001112493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Roman Popadiuk, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine, visited the main base of the Black Sea Fleet on 29 January. The guest was received by Ivan Yermakov, representative of the president of Ukraine in Sevastopol, and Viktor Semenov, chairman of the Town Council of People's Deputies. An exchange of opinions took place on the political and socioeconomic situation in the Crimea and Sevastopol and on the possibilities and ways to attract American business to the economy of the town, and in particular for resolving conversion issues. The U.S. ambassador visited the headquarters of the Naval Forces of Ukraine and conversed with the commander-in- chief, Rear Admiral Boris Kozhyn. The guest received exhaustive replies to questions regarding the development of the Ukrainian military fleet, a topic that interested him.

Zlenko Holds Conversation With Warren Christopher

LD3001174293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] The press center of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported today that Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko had a telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

During the meaningful and open exchange of ideas, the leaders of the two states' foreign policy departments discussed a wide range of issues with regard to bilateral relations and international issues.

Anatoliy Zlenko and Warren Christopher expressed satisfaction with the progressive and positive character of relations between Ukraine and the United States.

The Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs drew Christopher's attention to the groundless accusations to the effect that Ukraine is breaching the embargo against the former Yugoslavia. He once again confirmed Ukraine's consistent and principled position on this issue.

Anatoliy Zlenko and Warren Christopher agreed to meet in the very near future.

Negotiations on Former USSR Foreign Debt Fail

OW2901161893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ihor Yukhnovskyy, first Vice Premier and head of Ukrainian delegation, declared at a press conference on Friday [29 January] in Kiev that Ukraine and Russia failed to agree at the negotiations devoted to the division of the debts and assets of the former USSR. Nevertheless, the positions of the parties have become closer, he noted.

Vice Premier Aleksander Shokhin headed the Russian delegation at the negotiations which were completed on Thursday evening in Kiev.

Yukhnovskyy pointed out that the drafts brought by the Russian delegation to the negotiations do not meet interests of Ukraine. He said that Ukraine's proposal dated January 16 about the creation of Moscow-Kiev club of creditors was also not adopted at his meeting with Shokhin on Thursday.

The first Vice Premier reported that before the Kiev round of negotiations he had received a fax from the leadership of the Paris Club. Mr Trishet, President of the Paris Club, reported that he had acquainted the country-creditors with the Ukrainian-Russian protocol about separate servicing of the former USSR foreign debt. According to Yukhnovskyy, the protocol "was not signed but only initialed" during the consultations on January 16 in Moscow. The note of Mr Trishet cites that creditors are dissatisfied with the protocol and they insist on unified responsibility of Ukraine and Russia on debts of the former USSR.

In Yukhnovskyy opinion, repay of debt should be accomplished by Ukraine and Russia by separate channels. Ukraine could transfer funds to an account in a bank in Basel, Switzerland. The accumulated share of Ukraine could in its turn be transferred to a bank which will accumulate Russia's share. According to this variant, payments of two countries will be implemented under control of an independent auditor.

Yukhnovskyy believes that the problems concerning foreign debt and division of assets abroad "are lying close together but they are not interrelated." He reported that during the negotiations on Thursday in Kiev the parties reconfirmed Ukraine's right to own part of the former USSR assets abroad.

Ukraine, Yukhnovskyy declared, is ready to repay 16.37% of the USSR debt as of December 1, 1991 when Kiev proclaimed its independence. At the same time Ukraine does not agree to take the responsibility for $18.6 billion debt of the former USSR on credits received after December 1, 1991. "Ukraine has received neither food stuffs nor consumer goods on these credits," said Yukhnovskyy. The republic has received only $10 million for enterprises in Lugansk and in the Kiev province on these credits.

Yukhnovskyy underlined that the major part of the work to divide the property of the former USSR should be completed before March 31. Before March 1 Russia should present complete information about the assets to Ukraine. "A certain part of Ukraine's property could play the role of pawning to pay the debt," the first Vice Premier said.

Grigoriy Pyatachenko, the Ukrainian Finance Minister, declared at the press conference that "earlier or later the parties will meet each other half-way." If the issue concerning debt's division is not solved in the near future then "oxygen for Ukraine" can be cut off—it may remain without foreign credits.

Yukhnovskyy Cited on Talks

LD2901180793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] No results were achieved and no protocol was signed—this is how First Vice Prime Minister Ihor Yukhnovskyy today summed up the results of the negotiations between the state delegations of Ukraine and Russia in respect of the utilization of debts and the distribution of assets of the former Soviet Union at a press conference in Kiev. However, he noted that the positions of both sides became essentially closer and a certain mutual understanding was achieved.

Ihor Yukhnovskyy said that the idea of united responsibility for debt repayment, which is what Western creditors insist on, suited neither Ukraine nor Russia. This would make one country completely dependent upon the other and would not correspond to the objective circumstances that had come about as a result of the disintegration of the USSR and the creation of new independent states, he noted.

The first vice prime minister also said that the property of the former Union abroad would have needed to be distributed between the two states by the end of March.

Official Denies Delivering Oil Products to Serbia

LD2901201793 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council has appealed to the Ukraine Government to stop oil deliveries from its territory to Serbia. [passage omitted]

Our Odessa correspondent Viktor Vesilyk this morning talked with Repnikov, deputy head of the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company for operations. The latter said that neither Ukraine nor Ukrainian seamen had anything to do with the petroleum products in question. In fact, it was from foreign vessels that the petroleum products were reloaded. And all this was in the area of the port of Reni, which is in the water area of Ukraine.

Colonel Zymanov, chief of the (?Group) of the Southern Directorate of the Border Troops of Ukraine, confirmed this information and specified that, in accordance with documents, the vessels with the petroleum products aboard had to deliver them to Bratislava.

There was one Ukrainian vessel among them, the "Berezina," with Odessa being its port of registry. It had a cargo of 758 tonnes of diesel fuel from Ufa, which made it a Russian petroleum product, for the same city of Bratislava. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

LD3001180793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Ukraine undeviatingly fulfills its obligations in respect of the UN sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This was stressed in a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Reports which have recently been issued by some of the mass media about Ukraine allegedly delivering petroleum products to the former Yugoslavia by way of the Danube do not correspond to reality," the statement notes.

This has been established in the course of a thorough inspection of the transportation of such cargo from last November to this January.

At the same time, it has been ascertained that these petroleum products were shipped by companies and organizations from Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey, in order to further ship them to Austria, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia and the former Czechoslovakia by the Danube.

The statement stresses that the Ukrainian Government will do everything possible to cooperate closely with the United Nations on issues of the UN performing its mission aimed at the settlement of the crisis situation on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

More on Statement

OW3001081993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0805 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has published a statement rejecting accusations to the effect that Ukraine has violated the United Nations' sanctions against Yugoslavia by delivering oil products to it via the Danube.

The ministry says that, "according to the bodies charged with monitoring the implementation of the United Nations'

decisions on sanctions against Yugoslavia, all state structures of Ukraine strictly abide by the embargo regulations." According to the ministry, the approximately 30 barges noticed to move along the Ukrainian section of the Danube in November and January were loaded with oil products received from companies in Russia, Bulgaria, Hercegovina, Croatia, and the former Czechoslovakia.

The ministry, in particular, mentions the Russian company Salavatneftegazsintez.

The barges were towed by five tugboats flying the Yugoslav, not the Ukrainian, flag.

Thus, the ministry says, the accusations against Ukraine are groundless.

Although participation in the sanctions is causing Ukraine serious losses, the ministry continues, its government will be taking strict measures to rule out any violations of the embargo by the republic.

Ukraine, the ministry says, has proved its willingness to cooperate with the U.N. and European structures by consenting to the placement in its ports of Reni and Izmail of international missions monitoring the sanctions. The missions will soon arrive the ministry says.

U.S. Experts To Monitor Compliance

LD3001181093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] A group of experts of the U.S. Customs Service has arrived in the border town of Reni, Odessa Oblast, on the invitation of the Ukrainian Government. They will undertake an inspection of docks, warehouses, and the water area of the local port.

In addition, a mission of monitoring the UN Security Council sanctions against the former Yugoslavia will shortly begin its activity here, as well as at Izmail, another Ukrainian port on the Danube.

Morozov Visits International Contingent in Yugoslavia

OW3101181193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Defence Minister Colonel-General Konstyantyn Morozov has returned from a three-day working visit to Sarajevo, where a special Ukrainian battalion is located as part of the UN contingent. He visited the battalion and presented gifts to the personnel. He also visited the American military hospital, where three wounded Ukrainian soldiers undergo treatment.

The minister said that the 350-strong Ukrainian battalion is being gradually replaced by new personnel. On Saturday, the last group of 200 servicemen flew out to Sarajevo from Nikolayev and Dnepropetrovsk.

Press Service Condemns Activity of Russian Naval Officers

AU3001180993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 27 Jan 93 p 1

["Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense"; place and date issued not given]

[Text] "On 21 January 1993, the Delegate Officers Assembly of the Black Sea Fleet sent a petition to presidents of Ukraine and Russia urging them to maintain a single Black Sea Fleet with the main base in Sevastopol and to urgently evict the headquarters of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs from Sevastopol. If these demands are not met, reads the resolution adopted by the assembly, the delegates will reserve the right to resolve the above questions 'by means available to the Officers Assembly' [words within the single quotation marks published in Russian].

"In this regard, the Press Service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense is authorized to state that the decision adopted by the Delegate Officers Assembly of the Black Sea Fleet constitutes direct interference in the internal affairs of the sovereign state of Ukraine and is a violation of the Yalta accords; therefore, it further complicates the ultimate question of the fate of the Black Sea Fleet."

The statement points out that it is beyond jurisdiction of the Officers Assembly to resolve political problems that exist between the two states and expresses a hope that the new commander of the Black Sea Fleet who has been appointed by the presidents of the two states will give a proper assessment to the actions by the Officers Assembly and will not permit any provocative actions that may be damaging for the interrelations between Ukraine and Russia.

The command of the Black Sea Fleet has received a telegram from Colonel General Konstyantyn Morozov, Ukraine's defense minister, in which he expressed readiness to meet with members of the Delegate Officers Assembly and to discuss questions raised by them.

National Affairs

Rukh Leader Warns Against Rushing START Deal

OW3101140993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine must not try to rush the ratification of the START treaty, leader of the nationalist Rukh movement Vyacheslav Chornovil said speaking in Kharkhov on Saturday [30 January].

The Rukh leader said that nuclear cuts must be carried out in proportion with other nuclear states including Russia and the United States. He said the republic would eventually have to rid itself of nuclear weapons but security guarantees and compensation for the cost of dismantling nuclear warheads were needed.

Chornovil referring to expert counts said the dismantling cost would run from one and a half to two billion dollars at a time when the United States is prepared to offer only 175 million dollars.

The Rukh leader called Russian President Boris Yeltsin as guarantor of Ukrainian security, but he urged for more serious international guarantees. He did not rule out the possibility of any future government in Russia laying territorial claims to Ukraine.

Kravchuk Addresses Representatives to Rayons

LD3001165593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The studies of the Ukrainian president's representatives in oblasts and rayons, and also in Kiev and Sevastopol, have ended. They took place at the Center for Improving Qualifications of Cadres of the Institute of State Management and Self-Government, which is attached to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk spoke to the students. Listen to the account of (Ihor Kulinychenko):

[Kulinychenko] It was about the political and economic situation in the country, the instability which is concerning many at the moment. President Kravchuk shared his thoughts regarding improving the state of affairs:

[Kravchuk] "I think it will be impossible to get out of the crisis without reforms under state management. Second, we will not advance forward without sorting out our banking system, and our accounting, financial, and credit institutions. It is a strange thing. There are goods. There is a need for goods and components. Ukraine cannot deliver goods to Russia, nor Russia to Ukraine, because they cannot be transferred at the same time, which is natural in the world of money. Naturally, we will not resolve this second problem ourselves because it is connected with accounts.

"Perhaps the fact that we have set up a CIS clearing bank will help somewhat. We hope—(?well, if) we have signed (?it) and those agreements that we have entered into with Russia regarding the settlement of banking problems—I expect that this will give the matter a push.

"Third, there needs to be unity in our actions—the government, the president, the legislative body, and correspondingly in the provinces. It is now time to simply suspend conversations about what is better—that which was or that which is. It is necessary to find ways to resolve together—all power structures and all political forces—those problems that exist now."

[Kulinychenko] The president's representatives in the rayons are sometimes at a loss and do not know what to carry out first—presidential decrees, resolutions of the Supreme Council, or decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

[Kravchuk] "I have supported and am supporting Kuchma's government, because I support stabilization in society. Any kind of actions directed against the government today, or attempts to discredit the government, they are directed against Ukraine, against the state. Therefore, I am requesting that you in the provinces—this is now an instruction—it is your sacred task to ensure the implementation and elucidation of all of those existing decrees, those which the government adopts, those that the Supreme Council adopts and supports. Naturally, those over which the Supreme Council imposes a veto are another matter."

[Kulinychenko] Then the president replied to numerous questions. Many were interested in why the CIS charter was not signed in Minsk. After all, some believe that this would be of some benefit to Ukraine.

[Kravchuk] "If one looks at Ukraine, a group of people have not seen this statute. Which group? The majority have not set eyes on it. They all say to sign the charter immediately. The other group has also not set eyes on it, and also say loudly, in no event (?should you do this). They have drummed it into people's heads that the situation can be changed by means of a document, by means of a charter. If I believed for even a minute that this could be done, that everything will be changed tomorrow, that there will be oil and gas and that everything will continue alright, then, you know, I would have no doubts. I know, however, that all this is a deception of the people. Another deception."

[Kulinychenko] To the proposal to establish tougher control over the actions of state officials, Kravchuk replied:

[Kravchuk] "People have now become tired of general conversations and are demanding that there now be drastic actions as well. When society finds itself in such a difficult state, we can probably not manage without this. It is probably a realistic matter—discipline, responsibility, and drastic measures. The main thing is only this—that we do not forget that there is law.

"So, I agree with this and believe that you also should be supported in this, in your drastic actions. If we solve two problems, solve (?not to the full extent) the issues of the social protection of those who need it and the struggle with crime, corruption, and those who want to live for a while at the expense of others—then the people will understand and support us."

[Kulinychenko] Toward the end of the meeting Kravchuk called upon the president's representatives in the rayons to joint actions with the rayon councils. Only together is it possible to achieve success, he said.

[Announcer] This was the report of our correspondent (Ihor Kulinychenko) on the meeting of President Kravchuk with the president's representatives in the rayons.

Kravchuk Issues Decree on Agrarian Development

LD3001181293 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1834 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] The instruction of the president of Ukraine on the "Labor" [Trud] state program for the stabilization and development of productive forces in the agrarian sector of the economy.

With the aim of determining ways of ensuring rural socio-economic development, contributing to the construction of living accommodation, encouraging farming, and taking into account the needs and possibilities of enterprises liable for conversion:

1. The "Labor" Ukrainian engineering center is to elaborate a draft version of the state program for the stabilization and development of productive forces in the agrarian sector of Ukraine's economy, entitled "Labor," for the period until 2005, with the participation of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Ukraine, the Ministry of the Economy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Machine-Building, Military-Industrial Complex, and Conversion of Ukraine, other central bodies of state executive power, and also oblast, Kiev, and Sevastopol city state administrations, and to present it for examination to the president of Ukraine in two months time.

A working group for preparing the draft state program is to be set up (the personnel composition of the working group is enclosed).

2. Ministries, other central bodies of state executive power, and local state administrations are to provide the reference materials required for the working group for preparing the draft state program, and contribute to its work.

[Signed] President of Ukraine L.Kravchuk.
[Dated] Kiev, 27 January 1993

All-Crimean Voters' Movement Holds Extraordinary Congress

LD3101104393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 30 Jan (TASS)—The second extraordinary congress of the All-Crimean Voters' Movement [Vsekrymskoye dvizheniye izbirateley] finally took place today after being postponed several times. But this time it was held by different people, who in the course of a political struggle have replaced the previous coordinating council led by Nikolay Tyuryayev. Sergey Shuvaynikov, people's deputy from Crimea, has been nominated as the movement's new leader.

The politicians who have taken over the leadership decided as a first step to bring the movement's rules into line with existing legislation, and at their proposal a number of amendments were adopted. In particular, the goal which is being set is the unification of all the republic's patriotic forces. The movement reserves the right merely to address deputies with proposals on questions connected with the formation of a state structure of power and administration.

However, this did not soften the tone of the resolutions adopted at the congress. The delegates demanded that the Supreme Soviet of Crimea lift the moratorium on a referendum over the question of the republic's independence and that the referendum be held on 11 April this year. If the parliament does not do this, then the movement will begin a wide-scale campaign for its resignation. A demand was also put forward for the a law to be adopted on the Ukrainian Armed Forces on the territory of Crimea, which would provide for the restriction of the numbers of its personnel, the withdrawal of National Guard subunits, and a refusal by the army to interfere in any conflict on the territory of the peninsula.

A resolution was adopted supporting those public forces which are seeking to return to Sevastopol the status of a city subordinate to Russia, and to maintain the integrity of the Black Sea Fleet within the CIS strategic forces.

Condemning the position of the Ukrainian leadership, which has not signed the CIS Charter, congress delegates demanded that the Crimean parliament send a delegation to sign the Charter on the republic's behalf.

Urges April Independence Referendum

OW3101142493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its 2nd extraordinary congress the All-Crimea Voters' Movement called for holding on April 11 a referendum on independence for the peninsula, in defiance of the moratorium imposed by the Crimean Parliament.

The congress was held in Simferopol on Saturday. It gathered about 450 delegates from different areas of the Crimea. It was boycotted by some leaders of the movement who accused its organizers of being bent on a split. The congress had been postponed on six occasions. On Saturday [30 January] it elected People's Deputy Sergey Shuvainikov as chairman of the movement's coordinating council.

The resolutions adopted by the congress include a call for restoring the status of Sevastopol as a Russian city and the main base of the Black Sea Fleet, which, the delegates said, should be included in the CIS strategic forces.

The congress also urged the Crimean Parliament to send its own delegation to a conference of the CIS leaders to demand that the Crimea be included in the commonwealth.

Crimean Tatars Hold Congress; Pro-USSR Rally

LD3101173193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1545 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Report from Simferopol by unidentified correspondent; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The organization of the National Movement of Crimean Tatars has held an extraordinary congress in Simferopol. A program and some amendments to the charter were adopted at the congress. The National Movement of Crimean Tatars has been transformed into a political organization, which, according to Ukrainian laws, will enable it to put forward its representatives for state posts. It will be fighting for the political rehabilitation of Crimean

Tatars and the restitution of their national statehood. However it will only use means and methods stipulated by international acts on human rights. The documents of the congress state that the building of a truly democratic state in both Ukraine and Crimea will entirely depend on the outcome of the national question.

Also today, the patriotic forces of Crimea showed their unity in accordance with a decision taken by the all-Crimean congress of electors. Although representatives of parties and movements gathered for rallies this morning in various areas of Simferopol, later they all converged on the town's central square and accused once again both the Ukrainian president and the parliament, as well as the Crimean Supreme Soviet, of reducing people to abject poverty, and of making Crimea a Ukrainian colony. The participants called for the restoration of the USSR.

Border Troops To Be Increased by 9,000

LD2901133193 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1935 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] [No dateline as received] In accordance with a resolution of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, the Cabinet of Ministers has increased the established strength of the Ukrainian border troops by 9,000 persons at the expense of reducing the strength of the Ukrainian armed forces.

Press service of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Radar Installation Converted for Civilian Uses

LD0102104793 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Our enemies have become our friends, and quite a few Ukrainian enterprises and military-purpose installations at present are being transferred to civilian use.

(Pistryalivskyy) radar in Mukachevo is a good example of this. Here is a report by our Transcarpathian correspondent Ivan Povnytskyy:

[Povnytskyy] At the time that it was under construction the radar was called all sorts of names, from a monster to a Transcarpathian time bomb and a threat to all Eastern Europe.

As a result of resolute public protests, the construction of the radar was stopped some years ago. The indefiniteness of the future status of the installation resulted in radar maintenance personnel wheeler-dealers in military uniform cashing in on the situation and little by little selling off valuable equipment and construction materials.

For example, there are now several criminal cases of the theft of a large amount of nonferrous metals from the territory of the radar installation being examined at the military counterintelligence of the security service.

At last the Mukachevo Oblast and rayon state administrations have been granted a priority right for the former military installation.

An unloading platform together with railway lines has already been transferred to the local collective farm Nove Zhyttya [New Life] and the small enterprise Siyesta [Siesta]. RayAhroPostach [Rayon Agricultural Supply] has become the proprietor of a high- capacity oil installation with up to date filling stations. [passage omitted]

To provide for the work of the radar, a whole system of water intakes were built, which is also going to be used for civilian purposes. The Pistryalivskyy water intake installation will supply the nearby villages of Lalovo, (Bodalovo), (Berezyanka), (Pistryalovo), as well as a poultry farm in the village of Zaluzhye.

The oblast enterprise ZakarpatElectroMerezha [Transcarpathian Electric Power Grid] will become the proprietor of an electric substation. [passage omitted]

A variant of attracting entrepreneurial and commercial structures, and possibly foreign investors to the conversion, in a class of its own is being considered now by bodies of authority.

Moldova

President Snegur on Official Visit to France

LD2901162193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur is currently in France on an official visit. Our special correspondent Yevgeniy Lukyanov reports:

[Lukyanov] This is the first visit to Paris made by the president of Moldova. Among the questions to be discussed with the French leaders today, the most important ones relate to the various aspects of bilateral relations, particularly, in science, technology, culture, the agricultural sector of economy and organization of police service. France intends to open its embassy in Chisinau this year. The capitals of the two states will probably be served by the direct air flights.

Snegur will meet President Francois Mitterrand in the Elysee Palace and sign the Paris Charter for new Europe in his presence. The presidents will also sign a bilateral treaty on frienship and cooperation. According to local press, one of the questions which will be discussed is Moldova's attendance at the annual meetings of the leaders of the Francophone countries as an observer. Bulgaria and Romania are two East European countries that have already joined this French club.

Snegur, Mitterrand To Sign Treaty

LD2901211693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2017 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Kuleshov]

[Text] Paris January 29 TASS—An official French visit of Moldovan President Mircea Snegur laid down the first stone in the basement of the Moldovan-French relations to be further developed, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told today a breakfast in honor of the Moldovan official.

In the near future, the two states will establish diplomatic relations at the highest level and a French delegation will soon leave for Chisinau to prepare the event, said Dumas.

The French minister noted Moldova's striving to live in friendship with its neighbours. He expressed the French assurance the Moldovan-Russian relation problems will be solved thanks to the wisdom of their leaders.

Dumas said the French government will support Moldova's intention to join the Francophone countries' movement and its request to join the Council of Europe.

This afternoon Snegur and French President Francois Mitterrand will sign a bilateral treaty on mutual understanding and cooperation, as well as Snegur will sign the Paris Charter adopted at the late 1990 CSCE meeting in Paris.

Speaking at the breakfast, Snegur described his visit as a historic event in the Moldovan foreign policy.

In his words, the Moldovan-French rapprochement is not dictated by circumstances but is explained by the closeness of languages, culture and spiritual values rooting in the Latin civilization.

Snegur noted a possibility of opening a French cultural center in Chisinau and French investments in construction of a hotel complex.

Before leaving for Chisinau on Saturday morning the Moldovan president will give a news conference in Paris on results of his French visit.

Snegur on Opposition to CIS Integration

LD3101105693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Krasnoshchekov]

[Text] Paris, 30 Jan (TASS)—Moldova's accession to the CSCE's Paris charter for a new Europe was an historic event for the republic, one which shows that Moldova really has returned to the community of European nations. This was stated by President Mircea Snegur of Moldova at a news conference which he held here today. The president is on an official visit to the French capital.

Taking stock of his visit to Paris, the president of Moldova stressed that the signing of the Paris charter for a new Europe was a crucial landmark in the establishment of a new and democratic society in the republic. This brings Moldova closer to European structures and shows that the republic is ready to join in the processes of European integration, M. Snegur noted. We are aware, he said, of the great responsibility which this places on us. By signing the Paris Charter we undertook to build our state on the basis of respect for human rights and the rights of all the ethnic minorities living in the republic.

In this connection M. Snegur expressed hope that a solution to the problem of the Dniester region can be found in the context of CSCE mechanisms. He noted that the situation in the region is gradually returning to normal, but the presence there of units from Russia's 14th Army is, as he put it, "a destabilizing factor," which makes it harder to resolve the situation in districts on the eastern bank of the Dniester. M. Snegur called for the withdrawal of Russian forces from the republic's territory and disclosed that he intends to discuss this particular question with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia when the leaders of the two states meet in Moscow on 10 February. According to M. Snegur, the establishment of a quadripartite commission, made up of representatives of Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and Romania could also facilitate a solution to this problem. But the principal role in settling it belongs to Russia, he stressed.

The treaty on mutual understanding and cooperation between France and Moldova, the first such agreement which the republic has concluded with Western countries, is very important, M. Snegur continued. The treaty was signed on Friday by the two countries' presidents. Specific measures to develop cooperation between the two states will be

drafted by a bilateral intergovernmental commission. Priority areas in this cooperation, the president of Moldova said, will be the development of cultural and scientific contacts and the exchange of advanced technology. He also declared that Moldova intends to join the movement of Francophone countries, which, in his view, would promote more widespread study of the French language in the republic.

At the request of journalists M. Snegur dwelt on relations between Moldova and Romania. He noted that relations between the two countries are "following an upward path," a process which is facilitated, in many respects, by the historical and spiritual closeness of the peoples of these countries. At the same time he stressed that the leadership of Moldova advocates the existence of two independent states and said that this is in the interests of the overwhelming majority of the republic's population.

When asked by an ITAR-TASS correspondent to evaluate the results of the recent meeting in Minsk between the heads of state and government of the CIS member countries, M. Snegur noted that a tendency which could be briefly summarized as "willingness coupled with hesitation" has emerged in the capital of Belarus. He stressed that Moldova advocates the retention and development of economic ties with the other republics of the former USSR, but is categorically opposed to the idea of the CIS establishing political or military structures which might dictate their wishes to all the states of the commonwealth. This is precisely what is worrying Moldova, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan M. Snegur noted. At the same time he welcomed the decision to draft an economic charter for the CIS and called for the restoration and expansion of bilateral ties between the republics of the former USSR.

Further on Parliament Speaker's Resignation

Mosanu Explains Reasons

LD2901171893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1552 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau January 29 TASS—Moldovan Parliament Speaker Alexandru Mosanu said at a news conference held here today that his resignation, as well as that of two other deputies of the presidium, Vasile Nedelciuc and Valeriu Matei, is a deliberate and a well-thought out step and that they would ask the parliament to accept their resignation.

Mosanu said that over the past few months he has been unable to find common ground with the Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, who was unwilling to meet him, and the Moldovan Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli.

Mosanu emphasised that the parliament had been paralysed by Snegur's statement calling to strengthen Moldova's independence. "We are unable to do anything in parliament and therefore decided to resign so as to shake off the responsibility for whatever is going on. If deputies vote against the resignation, it will be the worst choice for us," Mosanu said. He believes that two political courses have come into confrontation in Moldova, with one of them supporting independence from the former Soviet empire and the other capitulating to it. Mosanu said that those who capitulate group around Snegur's statement and want to get Moldova involved in the CIS. According to Mosanu, "the Commonwealth is a platform for the restoration of the Soviet empire."

Mosanu, Other Resignations Viewed

OW2901174593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Some observers point to another round of confrontation between the Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, who proposed a nation-wide referendum on Moldova's independence, and the Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament Alexandru Mosanu, who is against the idea. Moldovan radio said Friday [29 January] morning that the Speaker had tendered his resignation. The first deputy Speaker Ion Hadirca, chairman of the permanent international affairs commissions Vasile Nedelciuc and the mass media commission head Valeriu Matei announced they would follow suit.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: On Tuesday 168 supporters of the referendum announced their readiness to resign as deputies, because, in their opinion, "the Christian-Democratic Popular Front faction backed by Mosanu and Hadirca has for a whole month blocked proposals by the parliamentary majority for a referendum on the basic articles of the Constitution establishing Moldova's independence." The parliamentary majority believes that "Christian- Democratic Popular Front supporters are seeking to aggravate chaos in society in order to push the country towards unification with Romania."

Deputy Speaker Victor Puscasu told Interfax that the parliament would consider the resignations of the speaker and presidium members on February 2. He believes that bringing up the question of unification with Romania, something the resigning parliamentary leaders are after, would be untimely, because most Moldovan citizens were against it.

Meanwhile, the Christian-Democratic Popular Front executive committee chairman, Yuriy Rosca, criticized the parliamentary majority for "imposing the referendum on the people." He says that "of late, the conservative forces including old party nomenclature and pro-Russian forces intensified their activities in a bid to plug Moldova into the CIS and set up a legal mechanism to prevent it from unifying with Romania." In his opinion, Mircea Snegur's statement on New Year's Eve that it would be necessary to consult with the people and put an end to rumors about unification "could lead to the further aggravation of the situation in Moldova's troubled areas."

"By denying the need for referendum Mosanu denies the rights of Moldova's people to exercise their political will in a referendum," says a political commentary in the presidential newspaper "GRAZHDANSKI MIR" ("Civic Peace") published today. In its commentary on Mosanu's anti-presidential speech in parliament last week, the newspaper argues that his course towards unification with Romania is insolvent.

The article points out that the people as a political entity is absent from the speaker's statement. His declaration that "the referendum and its results, if they meet the wish of the powers that be, will shake loose our independence and destabilize the situation" contains a deep contradiction. "Apparently, Mr. Mosanu is certain in advance that the results of the referendum would be negative to him", the commentary says.

Mosanu Blames 'Pro-Imperial' Forces

AU2901180993 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] This morning, the four members of the leadership of Moldova's parliament who presented their resignation—Messrs. Alexandru Mosanu, chairman of the parliament; Ion Hadirca, vice chairman of the parliament; and Vasile Nedelciuc and Valeriu Matei, chairmen of parliamentary commissions—held a news conference. According to ROMPRES, Mr. Alexandru Mosanu basically referred to the situation created in parliament particularly after 24 December 1992, in the wake of the presidential statement made on that day. Mr. Mosanu believes that there is a clash between two political trends: On the one hand, there are those who want an independent Moldova, capable of promoting an independent policy, and on the other hand, there are the same forces that for decades on end have kept Moldova in a colonial state and the capitulatory forces, want to give in to the pro-imperial, chauvinistic, and anti-democratic forces, and want to turn again Moldova into a Socialist Moldavian Republic.

This is the meaning of the discussions and confrontations, Mr. Alexandru Mosanu said. Our goal, the goal of those present here, and the goal of those belonging to the Popular Front and the democrats in general is to do everything possible to prevent a return to the state of subservience to the Soviet Union. President Mircea Snegur's statement has wittingly or unwittingly led to the unification of those forces that have always opposed the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, want us to stay a socialist republic, and are against our true freedom.

This attempt to sway the course of history toward a new split of our people into two parts has gained momentum when a group of 136 deputies demanded an extraordinary parliament session and a referendum on the union with Romania. Their goal, then and now, is to isolate us from Romania and raise once more the psychological barrier on the Prut River, Mr. Alexandru Mosanu said in the news conference quoted by ROMPRES.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Dniester-Abkhaz Treaty

LD3001215093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, 30 Jan—The Moldovan Foreign Ministry has described the recently signed "treaty between the Dniester region pseudo-republic and Abkhazia as an attempt to consolidate parallel structures of power and conceal behind a screen of friendly relations the intentions of the separatists to develop a policy of opposition to constitutional state structures." A ministry statement issued today emphasizes the military tendency of the treaty.

The statement notes that "the separatist leaders from Tiraspol are deliberately and persistently refusing to get down to a peaceful political dialogue to solve the problems existing in the zone in accordance with international law and the provisions of the Moldovan-Russian agreement of 21 July 1992, signed by Presidents Mircha Snegur and Boris Yeltsin".

The Moldovan Foreign Ministry calls on the member countries of the UN, CSCE, CIS, and other international bodies "to take a firm and definite stand over this manifest deviation from the norms of international law."

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Statement on Jersualem Misinterpreted

LD2901200793 Moscow Radio Moscow in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan, who visited Israel recently, expressed his country's intention of opening an embassy in Jerusalem. This has caused a big uproar.

Our reporter Nikolay [name indistinct] contacted the Kyrgyz Embassy in Moscow by telephone and asked the ambassador to comment on the statement of President Askar Akayev of the republic.

Akmetbek Nanayev, the ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Russia, pointed out in his conversation with our reporter that he was puzzled by all the fuss. Askar Akayev's statement in Israel was incorrectly interpreted.

The ambassador said in particular:

[Begin Ambassador Nanayev recording, in Russian fading to Arabic translation] A mistake was made in this connection, and it led to an incorrect interpretation of the question of us opening an embassy in Israel. [end recording]

The question here is about opening this embassy in Jerusalem in the future and not at the moment, namely, when the issues over which there is a dispute between the parties in the conflict have been solved, and they include the compliance with the UN Security Council resolution on East Jerusalem, which calls for rescinding the Israeli annexation of this part of the city.

Ambassador Nanayev told our reporter that the Syrian charge d'affaires, the Jordanian ambassador, and the counsellor of the state of Palestine asked him to clarify this question. He put to them the same point of view, which we cited above.

The Kyrgyz ambassador said that the Foreign Ministry of his country will, in the near future, issue a statement in which it will put forward the stand of the Kyrgyzstan Government on this question.

Recognition of Jerusalem Seen as Foreign Policy 'Lapse'

PM0102094393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Ryabushkin: "Opposition in Bishkek to Opening of Embassy in Jerusalem"]

[Text] Bishkek—A number of leaders of parties and movements and representatives of the Muslim community in Kyrgyzstan regard A. Akayev's visit and his intention to open an embassy in Israel as a lapse in the republic's foreign policy in the Near East. The results of this sensational trip were summed up at a press conference in Bishkek.

It was conducted by Vice Premier M. Zulpuyev, who is responsible for agriculture. He declined to make a political assessment of the visit, saying that the plan is to open a trade agency in Jerusalem, rather than an embassy.

But there was an immediate denial from a senior Foreign Ministry staffer, who had participated in the delegation's work. He said that the opening of an embassy was announced in Israel.

Judging by what was said, E. Karabayev, who has just become Foreign Ministry head, will assume full responsibility for the republic's very decisive diplomatic steps in Israel. Although everyone knows that the architect of the young state's foreign economic policy is L. Livitin, the president's experienced adviser, an active organizer of and participant in the visit. It is hard to imagine that he simply did not know of the importance that is attached in the Arab and Muslim world to where exactly the embassy will be opened—in Tel Aviv or in the disputed territory of Jerusalem.

It was suggested at the press conference that Kyrgyzstan may revoke its decision on opening an embassy in Jerusalem.

Tajikistan

State of Emergency Declared on Afghan Border

LD3001105693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] A state of emergency has been introduced beginning today along the whole length of the Tajik-Afghan border, by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan.

I would note that since the beginning of January, over 10 armed clashes have taken place there, and 86 border violators have been detained.

Rakhmonov Cited on Measures

OW3001141993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1330 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmonov says the introduction of a state of emergency on the republic's border with Afghanistan cannot be regarded as an emergency move by the government, for it was envisaged by the Minsk accord for stabilization on the Tajik-Afghan border. The state of emergency was introduced last midnight.

In the interview with INTERFAX, Rakhmonov explained the measure by the need to protect the numerous refugees who were returning home from Afghanistan.

Besides, said Rakhmonov, more attempts had been reported at illegal border crossings with a view to smuggle weapons and drugs into Tajikistan. The head of the national legislature stressed to the reporter that the government could not afford to close its eyes to the influx of arms from across the border now that too many guns were already stored, in violation of existing legislation, inside the republic. Imamali Rakhmonov saw the recent reception of a letter from

Afghan leader Borhanoddin Rabbani as a sign neighborly relations would develop between his country and Afghanistan.

Situation Reported 'Stabilized'

LD3101113493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0852 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gordiyenko]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan—The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border has stabilized after a state of emergency was introduced. The duty officer of the command of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the situation on the border was quiet today. According to the officer, there were no refugees today between signal systems in direct proximity to the border, where very recently there had been thousands.

Opposition Forces Reportedly To Surrender in Ramit

OW3001141293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to information from military sources, Tajik Government troops, ordered to disarm illegal fundamentalist groupings, are about to complete mission in the Ramit Gorge, 60 kilometers to the north-east from Dushanbe. Friday [29 January], a task force of the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs moved unhindered to the village of Ramit, which figures as its ultimate objective. Not a single shot was fired.

Most of the opposition forces in the canyon had split into smaller units and crossed the mountains for the Komsomolabad region. A few attempts have already been made by those splinter groups to replenish food supplies in Ragun and Obi-Garm. Reinforced security units and internal troops are acting to block such attempts.

In an interview with INTERFAX, the head of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmonov has hoped the government-opposition negotiations in Ramit will yield positive results.

The negotiations opened Friday and have continued into Saturday.

Asked whether the government guaranteed the personal safety of those fundamentalist forces who volunteered to surrender arms when the hostilities had ended, Rakhmonov said the observation of the recent amnesty act was exactly what he had been trying to impress upon the republic's local leaders whom he met last Friday in Dushanbe.

Troops, Opposition Clash; Dushanbe 'Relatively Stable'

LD0102092193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0837 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Dushanbe February 1 TASS—More than ten people have been killed and many wounded with government troops continuing to drive opposition forces into the mountains.

There have been no official reports about the details of the operation, but unofficial reports say government troops are facing fierce resistance from militants whose forces include many residents of Afghanistan who have experience in guerrilla operations in the mountains.

According to a high-ranking military official, the government troops have lost several dozen people in deaths and injuries.

Several days ago, militants killed one of the leaders of the Tajik Popular Front, Colonel Fayzullo Abdullayev, commander of a special task force. Abdullayev was killed whilst on the way to talks with the opposition forces stationed in the Ramit canyon, several dozen kilometers east of the Tajik capital Dushanbe. He did not have weapons on him and was carrying a white flag.

The press centre of the Tajik Security Ministry described the situation in the capital as "relatively stable," but did not rule out the possibility of new armed provocations. Separate armed groups from the Ramit canyon tried to penetrate Dushanbe through the village of Takob which neighbours the city on the north, but were rebuffed by governmental troops.

"The armed opposition does not have any chance of holding long-term resistance. Their hopes of help from their supporters from the northern provinces of Afghanistan are also doomed," Saidamir Zukhurov, Tajik security minister, said.

"The Tajik leadership introduced a state of emergency along the whole Tajik-Afghan border last Friday, so the borders of sovereign Tajikistan will be under proper protection," Zukhurov said.

Turkmenistan

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks With Niyazov

LD2901170193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat, 29 Jan—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here today for a working visit. From the airport he headed for the out-of-town residence of Saparmurad Niyazov, the president of Turkmenistan, where he will have talks on the future development of bilateral relations in the context of agreements reached at previous summit talks.

The Iranian minister's visit will last three days. The final document is expected to be a joint memorandum. Further cooperation in the economic sphere, particularly transportation and development of oil and gas deposits, will be discussed.

Commenting on the purpose of his visit to Turkmenistan, the head of the Iranian Foreign Ministry stressed in an interview with ITAR- TASS that he had arrived confident and hopeful that relations between the two neighboring states, which are already developing well, would be still further intensified.

Niyazov Cited on Relations

OW2901203293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2008 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has arrived in Ashgabat on an official visit. His meeting with the President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov has begun at a government residence behind closed doors.

Before the meeting President Niyazov told journalists that Turkmenistan was proud of the friendly relations with Iran and expected mutual benefit of cooperation with the neighbor. President Niyazov said that the Western concern about the growth of Muslim fundamentalism in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia was groundless.

"Certain individuals can cause certain fundamentalist influence, but I don't think that this is a policy of the Iranian government", President Niyazov said.

First Round of Talks Held

LD3001120293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] The first round of talks were held in Ashgabat today between Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati and Turkmen Foreign Minister Atayov. During the talks, the need for the further expansion of cooperation between the two countries was stressed. Velayati, referring to the membership of Iran and Turkmenistan in the Economic Cooperation Organization and the Organization for Cooperation of Caspian Sea Littoral States, considers the expansion of ties between Iran and Turkmenistan to be a good model for regional states' cooperation.

At the end of the talks, the two countries' delegation members began their work in committees—economic, transport, oil and gas, science, and culture, as well as political committees.

In the first stage of his seven-day tour to Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, Velayati arrived in Ashgabat on a three-day visit.

Niyazov, Velayati Discuss Ties

LD3001161493 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Ashgabat, Jan. 30, IRNA—President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov, in his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here last night, called for active cooperation among Caspian Sea littoral states.

Besides Iran and Turkmenistan, the other countries bordering the Caspian, the world's largest inland sea, are Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and the Azerbaijan Republic. The five littoral states have agreed to set up a cooperation council to deal with environmental issues as well as trade and commerce between them.

Niyazov, calling for expansion of Tehran-Ashgabat relations, said he has given necessary instructions to all relevant Turkmen organizations to speed up promotion of ties with Iran.

Turkmenistan also gives high priority to implementation of a project for transmission of its natural gas via Iran, and has set up a committee to make necessary preparations in this regard, he said.

Niyazov told Velayati that he was personally interested in learning the Persian language, and was hopeful that by reviving Persian in Turkmenistan the country's past history could be properly understood and passed on to future generations.

Modern Turkmenistan is made up of the ancient land of Khwarezm, an area which along with Khorasan and Transoceana (modern Uzbekistan and Tajikistan), played a pioneering role in Islamic-Persian culture and literature during the 9th-12th centuries A.C.

Velayati who arrived in Ashgabat on Friday described relations between the two neighbours as "friendly and on a growing trend."

He said regional states could expand relations within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Caspian Sea Littoral States Cooperation Council.

Both Iran and Turkmenistan are members of the ECO which also includes Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan.

In a separate meeting here Saturday, the foreign minister met with the speaker of Turkmenistan parliament and invited him, on behalf of his Iranian counterpart, to pay an official visit to Tehran.

Velayati Meets Deputies

LD3001174193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] A Central News Unit report states that Mr. Velayati has held a joint meeting with three of the Turkmen president's deputies during which they discussed progress by the cultural, commerce and economics, transport, gas and oil,

and political committees. General points concerning the economics committee and the issues of the exchange of students and lecturers and the preservation of the two countries' written, cultural, and historical heritages were approved at the meeting, which took place today in the presence of the heads of the two countries' five joint working committees.

Our country's foreign minister referred to the importance of transport in commercial relations between countries and described transport via the Caspian Sea as one of the cheapest and most appropriate ways to expand exchanges between the two countries and to transport Turkmen goods to other countries via Iranian territory.

Within the framework of expanding cultural links, he also expressed Iran's willingness to provide courses in Persian and Persian literature for Turkmen students, to establish primary schools in Turkmenistan, and to train Turkmen diplomats.

Velayati Tours Marv

LD3101141193 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in the ancient city of Marv, the Republic of Turkmenistan, and visited the village [of] Rafsanjan, 35 kilometers from the city, Saturday night.

The village was renamed after the last spring visit there by Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Meanwhile, UNESCO has foreseen special ceremonies to celebrate the 2,500th anniversary of the creation of Marv.

The foreign minister was accompanied by the Turkmen Vice-President Sakhat Muradov [title as received] and his Turkmen counterpart Khalykberdiy Atayev.

Meanwhile, five committees that are to work out agreements on economic, oil, gas, transportation, cultural, and political cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan are currently meeting in Ashgabat.

An agreement on the said areas is expected to be signed at the conclusion of Velayati's three-day visit to Ashgabat which started last Friday.

Some 24 Iranian medical practioners will shortly arrive in Ashgabat, Republic of Turkmenistan, in fullfillment of a medical cooperation agreement between Iran and the republic.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced the report when addressing an audience of students and academic members of Ashgabat School of Medicine, Saturday. Velayati, on an official visit to Ashgabat, said that the Islamic Republic was willing and ready to help Turkmenistan for regional cooperation in the area of health services.

He indicated that Iran is self-sufficient in medicines and vaccines and that it can supply Turkmenistan with many categories of pharmeceuticals.

The Iranian foreign minister also described the relations between the two countries as steadily developing.

Dean of the Medical School of Ashgabat Jovich, who was also present in the meeting, expressed interest in medical and health cooperation between the school and health organizations in Iran.

Visit Ends; Agreement Signed

LD0102095793 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Ashgabat, Feb. 1, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati wound up his 3-day visit to Turkmenistan and left here for Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Monday morning after signing a 21-point letter of understanding with Turkmen Vice-President Sakhat Muradov [title as received].

In the agreement, Velayati and Muradov underlined the need for promotion of cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and for convening of the Assembly of the Foreign Ministers and Heads of the Caspian Sea Littoral States to pass the newly-launched organization's statute.

To speed up promotion of economic ties, Iran and Turkmenistan agreed to hold the first session of the joint economic commission next spring.

According to the agreement, Turkmenistan will export oil products to Iran while both sides reiterated the need to accelerate implementation of the project to transfer Turkmen natural gas to Europe via Iran.

The two sides also agreed to increase the volume of bilateral exchanges and transit of goods, setting up customs houses at border points, providing visa facilities for businessmen and introduction of new airlines between the Iranian city of Mashad and Ashgabat and completion of the construction of Mashad-Sarakhs-Tejen railroad .

The letter further said that both countries will open consulate generals in Mashad, capital of the neighboring province, and Merv within six months.

They also agreed on expansion of bilateral cultural and news media cooperation and establishment of cultural centers and news agencies bureaus in each others capitals.

The memorandum further laid emphasis on bilateral cooperation in such areas as sports, theater and tourism.

Also 50 university students and professors will be exchanged to teach Persian and Turkmen languages in both countries, the agreement said.

Velayati was seen off at Tashkent airport by Moradov and Turkmen Foreign Minister Hakverdi Atayev.

On the second leg of his three-nation tour, the Iranian minister will pay a two-day official visit to Uzbekistan at the invitation of his Uzbek counterpart Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov. He will also visit Kazakhstan.

While here, Velayati on Sunday visited the ancient city of Urgench, the capital of Khwarazmian dynasty who ruled Iran 1077-1231.

Armenia

Official Says Karabakh Unaware of New Settlement Proposal

NC2901153893 Yerevan SNARK in English 0632 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 29 (SNARK)—The program on peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, worked up by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, the USA and Turkey, is unknown to the Karabakh leadership, has declared Robert Kocharyan, head of the Karabakh Defence Committee, visiting Yerevan at present, to SNARK's reporter. Earlier, Tofik Gasymov, the Azerbaijani foreign minister, informed about that program TURAN agency. [sentence as received] Gasymov informed, the program envisaged ceasing of military actions for 120 days, Armenian units' withdrawal from the Lachin Rayon with further accommodation there of international observers, deblockading of Armenia and Nakhichevan, some other measures. Only then comes a discussion of Nagorno-Karabakh's status. As for Kocharyan, he has stated, that any process of negotiations would be of no use, if the interested sides would not take into consideration today's political realities in the region, that is Karabakh should be recognized as a side in conflict and its representatives should take part in negotiations.

Karabakh 'Calm'; Captured Pilot Appeals to Yeltsin

NC2901163193 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] As previously reported, all the regions of Nagorno-Karabakh were relatively calm last night except for Martunskiy Rayon.

KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites self-defense forces headquarters as reporting that the Azerbaijani Army launched yet another attack early this morning against the strategically important Armenian positions at [place name indistinct], which borders Fizulinskiy Rayon. A fierce battle, lasting over five hours, ensued. Thanks to the stiff resistance put up by the Armenian self-defense forces, the enemy's offensive was halted and the Azerbaijani troops were pushed back to their original positions. One enemy tank was destroyed and 15 soldiers were killed. Two freedom fighters were injured on the Armenian side.

The Lachin humanitarian corridor was relatively peaceful following the recent Azerbaijani attacks.

KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY also reports that the military court of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic will decide the fate of Anatoliy Chistyakov, the mercenary pilot of the Azerbaijani warplane shot down over Mardakertskiy [on 15 January]. For the time being, investigations are continuing into the case of the 40-year-old pilot who carried out scores of air raids on peaceful settlements in Karabakh and Armenia. Speaking on Karabakh television, Chistyakov asked Russian President Boris Yeltsin to intercede on his behalf. However, so far the Karabakh leadership has not received any official appeal from Russia.

The NKR Interior Ministry reported that the parents of Aleksey Protnikov, the mercenary pilot who died when his plane was shot down on 15 January, have requested that their son's body be returned.

Night Patrols Provide Security

NC2901180493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By correspondent Gevorg Nazaryan]

[Text] [Announcer] Armenian Interior Ministry subunits have been conducting night patrols for the last few days now. Here is a report by Gevorg Nazaryan:

[Nazaryan] Militia workers could be seen in various quarters of the capital. They are stopping and searching every car. Thanks to such measures, persons (?threatening public order), stolen cars, and banned goods have been uncovered.

One such militia post has been set up in front of Yerevan's Khorhrdayin District Soviet Executive Committee. I asked Lieutenant Arutyunyan, the leader of this post, to comment on the services they provide. Between which hours and for what purpose do you conduct such patrols?

[Arutyunyan] We are conducting the patrols mostly between the evening and morning hours. We are working all during the night. Our basic goals are to provide security, maintain public order, prevent crimes, uncover arms, and other matters.

[Nazaryan] You mean you mostly serve at night when there is no power?

[Arutyunyan] Yes, in the absence of power and telephone lines, which has deprived people from contacting the medical services, police, or other services. We are providing all these services.

[Nazaryan] Do you get the citizens' requests for medical aid?

[Arutyunyan] Yes, we do [words indistinct]. A child was delivered yesterday in a police car.

[Nazaryan] What incidents have you registered today?

[Arutyunyan] Today we started [words indistinct] but so far no incidents have been observed.

[Nazaryan] I also visited other patrol posts in the city. They were all fulfilling their duties.

Fighting Updated; Region 'Peaceful'

NC2901204493 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Although the number of Azerbaijani attacks against the NKR has decreased noticeably during the past few days,

the situation has continued to be tense in the region. Azerbaijan National Army [ANA] units have disrupted the peaceful situation in various parts of the battlefront by periodically attacking the Armenian self-defense positions. The enemy also intensively pounded the Armenian residential areas close to the border with long-range artillery and Grad rockets.

Intensive combat operations are taking place in Martuninskiy Rayon in Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] at present. ANA units in Fizulinskiy Rayon launched an attack after a preparatory wave of artillery shelling at 0100 yesterday. They succeeded in occupying the positions on (Uryan) Mountain, which were liberated by the Armenian self-defense units [words indistinct]. However, Azerbaijan's victory did not last for long. The positions, which are essential for NKR's defense, were liberated by the Armenian self-defense forces. Three Armenian freedom fighters were wounded in the counterattack. The enemy lost many men and a large quantity of military equipment. Azerbaijan lost 25 of its troops and [words indistinct] in the clashes.

ANA units fired on the border areas in Gadrutskiy Rayon with long-range artillery on the same day. Yudumlu also was fired on. There were no injuries, however. [passage indistinct]

ANA units attacked the Armenian self-defense positions around (Udzhar) in the vicinity of the Lachin humanitarian corridor several times yesterday. The enemy attacks were rebuffed as a result of the Armenians' retaliatory measures. The corridor remains open to traffic. [passage omitted]

The Armenian Ministry of Defense Press Service has disclosed that the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border was relatively peaceful yesterday and today, but exchanges of fire periodically disrupted the calm. In general, the situation has been relatively peaceful in the entire region. We hope that peace will continue to prevail a long time and that conditions will be created for the settlement of the dispute through peace talks.

Defense Ministry Holds News Conference

LD2901172793 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By correspondent Mais Mamedov from Baku; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Studio announcer] A news conference was held today at Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry.

[Mamedov] Staff members of the Defense Department's information and analysis center gave an account of the situation in Upper Karabakh on the border between two Transcaucasian republics. It was noted that in northern Karabakh the national army had conducted a successful operation and liberated a number of important strategic points. Unfortunately, success has not yet been achieved in shutting off the road through the rayon center to Lachin, which continues to be occupied by Armenian armed formations who are using this transport artery to transfer troops and munitions to the conflict zone from Armenia.

Journalists were informed that over the past two months Azerbaijan's air defense forces had shot down 16 enemy helicopters. In their turn, the republic's air forces have lost two combat machines.

Correspondents expressed indignation over the fact that access to the combat area is now closed. This is making it difficult to convey up-to-date information about the events taking place there. A Defense Ministry spokesman explained that the reason for this is that the number of terrorist acts had increased of late.

Russian, Armenian Servicemen Swear Military Oath

LD3101191893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1436 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 31 Jan—A solemn swearing-in ceremony has been held in the Armenian capital for Russian Federation Army recruits who have volunteered to come to serve in Armenia, and for soldiers of the Armenian National Army. Congratulating the servicemen on behalf of the command of Armenia's Armed Forces, Colonel Mikhail Arutyunov, first deputy chief of the General Staff of the republican Ministry of Defense, voiced the wish that the half-century-old tradition of Soviet and Russian Federation troops being on the territory of Armenia would be successfully continued.

Vladimir Starikov, Russian Federation charge d'affaires in Armenia, described as symbolic the joint swearing-in ceremony of servicemen of the two armies. Traditional ties of friendship and cooperation are a historical link between Armenia and Russia, he commented. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from Colonel Aleksey Tretyakov, head of the combat management group for directing Russia's Armed Forces on the territory of Armenia and deputy chief of staff of the group of Russian Federation troops in the Transcaucasus, that the Russian Federation recruits who took the oath came to Armenia from Krasnodar kray. He said that the recruits' parents had supported their sons' choice. The servicemen will do their military service in Armenia where they will carry out tasks deriving from the Russian Federation-Armenia interstate agreement on cooperation in the defense sphere, he commented.

Azerbaijan

Explosion at Rayon School Kills 19, Wounds 32

NC2901183393 Baku AZERTAC in English 1356 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, January 29 (AZERTAC)—According to the Information-Analytical Center of the Azeri Defense Ministry, there were 19 killed and 32 wounded men as a result of explosion in the school of Afatli village in the Agdamskiy

area. As it is ascertained, the reason for the explosion was a mine. In opinion of the military investigation bodies, this action is a provocation, the aim of which is to defeat the offensive of the Azeri Armed Forces in the direction of Farukh village.

Government Reports 2 Armenian Helicopters 'Downed'

OW3001171493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri Defense Ministry says that Friday [29 January] evening Azeri antiaircraft units downed two Armenian helicopters which had opened fire on villages on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border.

Last night Armenian forces were reported to have attacked Azeri positions in the direction of Fizuli. The attack was rebuffed. Two Armenian tanks suffered damage. Along with that, the Azeri Defense Ministry says Armenian artillery units in Nagorni Karabakh have shelled the Azeri cities of Agdam and Fizuli. Material damage and human casualties have been reported.

Battlefront Situation Detailed

NC2901182893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

The Azerbaijan Armed Forces control the combat situation along the entire battlefront. There was no significant change on the battlefronts last night. The clashes were in the form of [word indistinct].

Exchanges of fire with machine guns and automatic firearms were heard yesterday afternoon near Chullu Kyshlakh in Zangelanskiy Rayon and Tsur in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon. Our artillery units in (Uriyan Dag) and Kyzylkaya in Fizulinskiy Rayon dealt blows to the enemy and silenced their emplacements.

The situation in Tauzskiy, Kedabekskiy, Kazakhskiy, and Akstafa Rayons was relatively peaceful last night.

Our air defense units destroyed two enemy helicopters which penetrated Azerbaijan's airspace today.

We now present an announcement: The relatives of Durbala Mamed oglu and Isam Ibragim oglu, members of the Azerbaijan National Army, are urged to contact the Analytical Information Center.

Helicopter Shot Down; Clashes Intensify

NC0102080493 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center's communique reads:

The clashes on the battlefronts have intensified during the past few days. The Azerbaijan Armed Forces have dealt effective blows to the Armenian occupationist units' positions and heroically foiled the enemy's malicious intentions.

Our artillery units forced a convoy of six Armenian military vehicles on the [name indistinct] road on Kazakhskiy Rayon's border to turn back at about 2230 on 30 January. Agdam in Tauzskiy Rayon, Suleymanly and Kyshlakh in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon, and [placename indistinct] in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic were fired on occasionally last night with small-caliber arms. No one was wounded.

The situation in all the regions was relatively peaceful today. Our air defense units, however, hit and destroyed another enemy helicopter, which had penetrated our Republic's airspace, at 1228 today.

Further on Helicopter; Clashes

LD0102101193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Elchin Sardarov for TASS]

[Text] Baku February 1 TASS—Azeri forces downed an Armenian combat helicopter on Sunday [31 January] night over Azerbaijan. The crew is reportedly dead, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said, adding it was the third Armenian helicopter downed over the weekend.

Azeri forces stopped Armenian attempts to get to Azeri regions bordering on Armenia. Six military vehicles with Armenian fighters heading for Nagorno-Karabakh along the Kazakh region were forced to turn back, according to the source.

Azeri villages of the Tauz, Jebrail regions and the Nakhichevan Republic came under heavy Armenian artillery fire during the weekend.

In Nagorno-Karabakh combat operations continued to free the settlements seized by the enemy, the ministry said.

Elchibey Interested in 'Extensive' Ties With Israel

OW3001143193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azeri President Abulfaz Elchibey said his country is interested in having extensive relations with Israel. Meeting the Israeli Ambassador to Russia, Hayim Bar-Lev, in Baku on Friday [29 January], Elchibey said developing relations with Israel is one of Azerbaijan's priorities.

He said Azerbaijan's Jewish community takes active part in the country's public and political life.

The Ambassador also met Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov and Parliament Chairman Isa Kamberov. The subjects they discussed included the Azeri-Armenian war and prospects for Azeri-Israeli cooperation, in particular in agriculture.

Barlev said the Israeli Ambassador to Azerbaijan will be arriving in Baku within the next few weeks.

Georgia

Government Requests UN Troops To Patrol Border

LD2901224693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2155 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Saltykov]

[Text] United Nations, 30 Jan (TASS)—Georgia has asked the Security Council to send armed UN troops to the Russian-Georgian border, Sandro Kavsadze, the chairman of the Committee for Human Rights and International Relations of the Republic of Georgia, told a news conference at the UN headquarters on Friday [29 January].

Kavsadze recalled that Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on 25 December, evaluating the situation in Abkhazia and asking for international peacekeeping forces to be sent to the conflict zone. "Eduard Shevardnadze is now asking the Security Council to press neighboring states not to interfere in Georgia's internal affairs and to request all UN member states not to permit such interference."

UN peacekeepers should be stationed along the Russian-Georgian border and also guard the republic's rail lines, Kavsadze said. For this to happen, the first thing is that an international group of experts should be sent to assess the situation on the border and determine the number of UN troops required.

Since the Georgian Government is not in control of the situation in Abkhazia, it has also asked the United Nations to send a human- rights mission to assess the situation there, Kavsadze announced.

Shevardnadze on Russian Role in UN Resolutions

OW0102131693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of the Georgian state, positively assessed the resolution of the UN Security Council to send a UN mission to Georgia to examine possibilities for introduction of peacekeeping forces to the republic. In his radio interview on Monday [1 February] Shevardnadze underlined that "the Russian representatives have rendered a great help to our delegation in New York" while adopting the resolution. According to Shevardnadze, "we have nothing against it if Russia proceeds with such constructive policy to settle conflict in Abkhazia." Mentioning the problem of Russian forces in Georgia, Shevardnadze pointed out that "as we still have no army of our own, the presence of the Russian Army is necessary, especially of the frontier forces. If we open the border with Turkey, as Azerbaijan has opened its border with Iran, then we shall face numerous problems." The Georgian leader reported that he has a letter from the Russian President Boris Yeltsin in which Yeltsin guarantees withdrawal of forces on the demand of the Georgian side. Shevardnadze expressed supposition that if appeals and demands to withdraw Russian forces are still voiced in the republic "we should address people's opinion and conduct a referendum on this issue." In response to a question concerning his forthcoming visit to Baku Shevardnadze answered that Azerbaijan is not only Georgia's neighbor but an economic partner and Georgia depends upon Azerbaijan in many fields." At present the only vital artery to Georgia lies via Azeri territory through which Georgia receives different cargoes. Besides, implementation of the economic plans developed together with Iran depends upon Azerbaijan and its participation in joint projects.

"I do not rule out a possibility that the meeting with Azeri president will create a basis of cooperation between three countries," declared Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze Criticizes Commission on South Ossetia

OW3001140093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian parliament, criticized the joint commission dealing with problems of Tskhinvali Region (South Ossetia) and having members from Russia. He said that, while some stabilization has been achieved in the region, the commission has so far failed to adequately carry out the tasks it has been charged with. The same, he said, goes for the peace-keeping forces deployed in the region. In particular, the crime rate is too high and the return of refugees is improperly organized.

According to the Georgian news agency, Shevardnadze discussed Tskhinvali Region's problems on Friday [29 January] at a meeting in Tbilisi with Istvan Gyarmat, head of the mission of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in South Ossetia. Gyarmat has been working in the region for two months.

Shevardnadze said "commitments should be formulated for both sides [the Georgian and South Ossetian leaderships—INTERFAX] as fast as possible so that people could start living normal lives." Gyarmat said both sides are now prepared to start a political dialogue. In his opinion, they can begin the first round of talks in February: conditions for this have been provided, whereas putting it off might cause new problems.

Before leaving Tbilisi, Gyarmat said his mission will shortly present a report to the CSCE, sending a copy of it to Georgia.

Troop Issues, Withdrawal Discussed With Russian Military

LD2901203093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Nana Gongadze from Tbilisi; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A military delegation headed by Colonel General Aleksandr Galkin arrived in Tbilisi today to take part in the third round of Russian-Georgian talks.

Opening the plenary session, Aleksandr Chikvaidze, minister of foreign affairs of Georgia, expressed satisfaction in connection with the successful work of the diplomats, having noted that the overwhelming majority of Georgian parliamentarians are in favor of the present dialogue between Russia and Georgia.

Lieutenant General Fedor Reut, commander of the group of Russian troops in the Transcausus, also joined the plenary session today. The draft treaty on the status of the temporary stay of Russian troops on the territory of Georgia, which provides for further mutual relations between the military departments of both countries, questions of technical cooperation, personnel training, pension provision, and the housing problems of Russian servicemen in Georgia were also discussed. The draft also defined the approximate time limit of their stay—until 1995.

Temporary Gas Pipeline To Armenia Restored

LD2901200693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1914 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By GIA correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi January 29 TASS—The work on temporary gas pipe line, through which natural gas reaches Armenia, has been completed today. A few days ago this section of the line was blown up as a result of an explosion on the territory of the Marneuliy district.

The temporary line is capable of letting pass only half of the earlier volume of gas. The deficit - electricity and 10 thousand tonnes of furnace oil will be provided by Georgia. The work to restore the main gas pipe line is continuing. Georgian and Armenian specialists are expected to put it into working condition by the middle of February.

Foreign Minister Denounces Abkhazia-Dniester Agreement

LD2901181693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent Yuriy Goldman for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi January 29 TASS—Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze described the agreement signed by the Dniester Region and Abkhazia, two separatist enclaves in Moldova and Georgia, as illegal and lawless. He sharply denounced "the unprecedented act, which is not juridically valid" in an interview with the GEORGIAN NEWS AGENCY for TASS.

Abkhazia and the Dniester Region are not international relations subjects, said the minister. Their actions cannot be explained from the point of view of the international and national law, and they lead only to a conflict and complication of relations between the states. The fact in no way contributes to a peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

The above-mentioned "document" fully runs counter to principles of the international and national law, it was signed by sides which are not subjects of international relations, and, thus, is not juridically valid, says a statement of the Georgian Foreign Ministry.

The so-called agreement grossly infringes on territorial integrity of two sovereign states—the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Georgia—and violates fundamental provisions of the United Nations Charter and CSCE Acts, says the statement.

Abkhazian Defense Ministry Reports on 'Skirmishes'

LD2901155893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow January 29 TASS—The Abkhazian Ministry of Defence reported on Friday [29 January] that skirmishes continue all along the front line, including artillery shelling. Over the past twenty four hours settlements of Ochamir region came under fire opened by Georgian Government troops. There was a short battle near a bridge in the vicinity of Verkhnya Eshera village on Thursday night. Casualties were reported on the Georgian side.

The Abkhazian Ministry of Defence has reported a growing number of incidents in which Georgian soldiers deserted from Sukhumi.

On Thursday, some of 50 deserters used fire arms when being detained by Georgian authorities.

Volunteers Ready To Fight Georgians in Abkhazia

LD3001103193 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 2359 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] There are today over 15,000 volunteers from the republics of the North Caucasus ready to be sent to Abkhazia to fight against the Georgians. This was stated recently on Gudauta TV by Konstantin Ozgan, an Abkhazian member of parliament and one of the most influential politicians of the autonomous republic, who was back from a visit to the republics of the North Caucasus. He expressed the view that it is already superfluous to speak of any sort of relations between Abkhazia and Georgia. "We shall be a free state and we shall ourselves determine the path of its future development," stressed Ozgan.

Military Command Reports New Clashes in Abkhazia

LD3001120693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1113 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi January 30 TASS—Abkhazian units again opened fire at Georgian positions near the Gumista River on Friday, close to midnight, the press centre at the headquarters of the Georgian Military Command in Sukhumi reports. The Abkhazian side moved military hardware to the firing positions. Georgian troops fired back at Abkhazian positions.

Position fighting lasted for about two hours. Georgians destroyed by a direct hit an Abkhazian armoured personnel carrier together with the crew. On Friday Georgian artillery destroyed by a direct hit an Abkhazian tank, which was firing at Georgian positions near the Gumista River. The warring sides remain on the same positions. The situation was comparatively calm on the frontline on Saturday morning.

Talks on Exchange of POWs Held; Sukhumi Shelled

LD3101091093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0800 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 31 Jan—According to the press center of the Georgian Military Command headquarters in Sukhumi, a telephone conversation on the exchange of POWs took place on Saturday [30 January] evening between representatives of the Georgian Military Command, the Council of Ministers of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, and representatives of the Abkhaz side who are based in Gudauta. The sides agreed on the need to set up a joint commission to study the situation of the Abkhaz and Georgian populations in Abkhazia.

According to the same information, Abkhaz formations situated on the other side of the Gumista river again subjected residential areas of Sukhumi to artillery bombardment yesterday evening. Preliminary information reveals that two persons were wounded and two houses were damaged.

Defense Ministry Reports Relative Calm in Abkhazia

OW3101142093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There was relative calm in Abkhazia overnight, press officials of the Georgian Defence Ministry told INTERFAX on Sunday [31 January]. In a single shooting incident on Saturday night, an Abkhazian tank opened fire on Sukhumi. One of the shells hit a building in the central part of the city. But no one was hurt.

The ministry said that the scheduled prisoner exchange in the Ochamchir region on Saturday did not take place because the Abkhazian side had failed to turn up, with the operation now being re-fixed for some other day. The two sides had also agreed to set up a mixed commission to " examine the plight of war-trapped civilians".

Reports from Abkhazia speak of sporadic shooting close to the Gumista river. Government estimates in Gudauta put last week's Georgian casualties at 120 dead and 450 others injured. Six Georgian tanks and three army vehicles were also hit.

Firing Continues in Abkhazia Conflict

LD3101220993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2147 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow February 1 ITAR-TASS—Machine gun and artillery duels continued in the direction of Eshera-Sukhumi in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict on Sunday [31 January], ITAR-TASS learned from the press service of the Abkhazian envoy to Russia. According to the press service, the Abkhazian armed forces destroyed 4 tanks, 3 reinforced personnel emplacements and three fire emplacements of the Georgian government troops in the last week of January. The Georgian side lost 70 soldiers and officers killed in the duels and 250 people wounded by gunfire.

In the area of guerilla activities in the direction of Ochamchira-Tkvarchal, according to the same source, sporadic skirmishes were reported. The Abkhazian side said it destroyed two tanks with ammunition, three trucks and one anti-aircraft installation in the last two weeks of January. It seized one tank and one armoured personnel carrier. More than fifty Georgian government troops were killed and nearly 200 wounded.

Russian Flight Refused Permission To Fly to Tkvarcheli

LD2901210493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1619 GMT 29 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sochi January 29 TASS—Georgia did not allow a Russian helicopter with a group of representatives of Russia, the United Nations, Abkhazia and Georgia to the mountainous miners' town of Tkvarcheli on Friday [29 January].

The group was heading for Tkvarcheli to receive guarantees that the city will accept humanitarian aid after the first attempt to deliver it failed because the urban administration refused to accept the aid until Georgia frees hostages from a helicopter shot down on January 18.

When the Russian helicopter took off from Adler, near Abkhazia, the airport of Sukhumi, where all flights to Tkvarcheli have to land for inspection, categorically refused to receive it saying that it can ensure no safety.

The Georgian leadership in Sukhumi said the air traffic controller was to blame for, as it said, misunderstanding the order.

Abkhazian Deputy Prime Minister Roman Sichinava called Russian representative Yuriy Voroboyov in Sochi and apologised for the incident promising an unimpeded flight on Saturday.

Voroboyov told TASS that it is inadmissible to use a purely humanitarian Russian mission for political and military speculations by Abkhazian and Georgian sides while the people of Tkvarcheli are dying of hunger.

30 people have reportedly died in the town where many Russians live after Tkvarcheli was cut off from the rest of the world by the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

Officials Agree on Tkvarcheli Aid

LD3001203193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1435 GMT 30 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS free-lance correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 30 Jan—A working meeting of representatives from the United Nations and the Russian, Georgian, and Abkhazian sides, including representatives of the administration and inhabitants of the town of Tkvarcheli, was held today at Sukhumi airport to consider the conditions for staging the operation to deliver humanitarian aid to the town of Tkvarcheli. The following decisions were adopted as a result of the meeting:

The Tkvarcheli administration and the Abkhazian military command controlling the Tkvarcheli area guarantee the unconditional safety of all those involved in the operation to provide humanitarian aid and to evacuate the inhabitants of the town of Tkvarcheli, including the safety of the representatives of the Georgian side monitoring the distribution of aid, and also ensure the security of flights by Russian helicopters bearing Red Cross identification marks in the territory controlled by Abkhazian armed formations.

The administration of the town of Tkvarcheli ensures the organization of work to receive the helicopters, including the preparation of landing sites, the unloading of humanitarian cargo, and the organized landing of the evacuated people.

The Tkvarcheli administration undertakes to organize the unhindered reception of the humanitarian aid and its distribution on the conditions envisaged in the protocol on the working meetings of Russian, Georgian, and Abkhazian representatives on 23, 24, and 28 January this year.

The Tkvarcheli administration and the Abkhazian military command controlling the Tkvarcheli area undertake to observe all the commitments contained in the protocols on the working meetings of representatives of the Russian and Abkhazian sides in Gudauta on 24 January and representatives of the United Nations and the Russian, Georgian, and Abkhazian sides in Sukhumi on 28 January.

Helicopters Land, Evacuate Wounded

OW3001180693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to reports from Sukhumi, a Russian helicopter has delivered the first shipment of humanitarian aid - 3 tons of baking flour - to the Abkhazian city of Tkvarcheli and evacuated, from the city, three wounded residents. The flight was carried out in the context of UN action for Abkhazia and allowed by both Georgian and Abkhazian authorities. Russian, UN, Georgian and Abkhazian emissaries arrived in Tkvarcheli aboard the helicopter to discuss with the local authorities plans for further aid deliveries and the evacuation, from the city, of senior citizens, women, children and people in grave medical condition.

Upon arrival at Sukhumi airport, the Russian, UN, Georgian and Abkhazian emissaries and representatives of the Tkvarcheli government adopted a joint protocol under which the Tkvarcheli government and the Abkhazian army command guarantee full personal safety to every participant in the humanitarian actions, including Georgian representatives.

The Tkvarcheli government assumes the responsibility for distributing the reliefs and preparing people for evacuation.

Under the protocol, Tkvarcheli will receive 10 helicopters with cargoes of humanitarian aid.

Aid to Abkhazia Suspended

LD3101201493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1928 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi, 31 Jan—The Georgian side has decided to temporarily suspend, from 1 February, the implementation of humanitarian aid in Abkhazia and the evacuation of refugees from Tkvarcheli until the Abkhaz side and representatives of the authorities of the town of Tkvarcheli create conditions for complying with all the points of the preliminary accords between representatives of the interested sides. This is said in a statement adopted this evening by the Council of Ministers of the autonomous republic of Abkhazia and the Georgian military command in Abkhazia.

The document notes that on 31 January the Abkhaz side grossly violated one of the main points of the preliminary accords, that during evacuation of refugees from Tkvarcheli the principle of strict national proportionality of those evacuated should be observed.

Ethnic Problems End Flights

LD0102115793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1102 GMT 1 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Schegoleva]

[Text] Sochi February 1 TASS—Russian helicopters did not fly to Tkvarcheli in Abkhazia on their humanitarian mission on Monday [1 February] after the Georgian authorities

protested that the ethnic composition of refugees evacuated from the cut-off town gives preference to Abkhazians.

On Sunday, refugees returning from Tkvarcheli onboard the Russian helicopters were checked at Sukhumi airport. It turned out that there were 92 Abkhazians, 39 Russians and eight Georgians among them. Earlier the Georgian authorities allowed the flights on condition that an equal number of all ethnic groups is evacuated from Tkvarcheli.

U.N. representative Pierre-Erik Kostroem believes the flights are to be continued while all disputes are being cleared up. However, the Georgian side gave no permission to resume the flights.

Chairwoman of the Sochi branch of the Red Cross, Olga Moyseyeva, told TASS a total of 68 Tkvarcheli refugees are staying in the town of Adler on the border with Abkhazia. There are 28 Russians and 24 Abkhazians among them, the rest are Ukrainians and Belarusians.

Talks on Tkvarcheli Aid Continue

OW0102143293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [1 February] in Sochi representatives of the United Nations Organization, Russian State Committee on emergency situations, Georgian servicemen, and civil authorities are continuing negotiations to resume deliveries of humanitarian aid to the besieged Abkhazian city of Tkvarcheli.

On January 31 the Georgian side presented its protest to representatives of Russia and Abkhazia due to violation of protocol principle of national proportionality during the evacuation of residents from Tkvarcheli. According to the protocol, there should be ⅓ of Georgians, ⅓ of Abkhazians, and ⅓ of other nationalities in every party of evacuated people.

On Sunday 5 Russian helicopters took 150 people from Tkvarcheli, among them 92 Abkhazians and 8 Georgians.

Due to this the Georgian side declared that it stops flights to the besieged city since February 1 until Abkhazian representatives of city authorities in Tkvarcheli create conditions for unconditional fulfillment of all provisions contained in the agreements.

Marina Ryklina, press secretary of the Russian State Committee on Emergency Situation in Sochi, told INTERFAX that Russian side insists to continue deliveries of the humanitarian aid to Tkvarcheli. At the same time the negotiations to observe the principle of national proportionality during evacuation should continue. Ryklina also reported that at present 5 loaded Russia helicopters are ready to take off. There is flour, cereals, vegetable oil, and medicines aboard these helicopters.

According to Sukhumi, UN representatives intend to address Georgian military command asking to resume humanitarian actions. Evacuation of Tkvarcheli population will be suspended for an indefinite time.

The press secretary clarified that if deliveries of cargoes is not resumed in the near future, the UN representative intends to declare an official protest to Georgia's authorities.

Helicopters Not Allowed To Land in Sukhumi

LD3101114893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1038 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sochi, 31 Jan—Seven Russian helicopters were loaded up today in Sochi in the presence of representatives of the United Nations and the Georgian side and set out to fly the route Sochi-Sukhumi-Tkvarcheli route. The operation was undertaken in accordance with the agreements reached on Saturday [30 January] during the working meeting at Sukhumi airport between representatives of the United Nations and the Russian, Georgian, and Abkhazian sides, including representatives of the administration of Tkvarcheli and its inhabitants.

However, according to reports, Sukhumi airport has refused to allow the helicopters to land, allegedly because the airstrip is iced over. The helicopters landed on the military airfield in Gudauta to await permission to continue their flight. The Russian helicopter pilots stated to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the icing over of the airstrip does not present an obstacle to landing or taking off.

The operational group of the Russian state committee for emergencies in Sochi is attempting to gain permission to land from the Georgian side, but so far without success.

'Technical Reasons' Cited

LD2901234493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2250 GMT 29 Jan 93

[From the ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[Text] Sukhumi, 29 Jan—The press center of the General Staff of the Georgian military command in Sukhumi has told journalists that on Friday [29 January] Sukhumi airport

was unable "for purely technical reasons" to receive the helicopters carrying humanitarian aid and personnel.

According to the press center, on 29 January the airport was without electricity from five a.m. to six p.m., and so air traffic control could not ensure safe conditions for the helicopters from Sochi to land.

The press center emphasizes that the Georgian side confirms adherence to the terms of the accords reached with UN, Russian, and Abkhazian representatives on the resumption and implementation of the Tkvarcheli humanitarian operation and hopes that it will begin, at long last, today.

Military Grants Permission for Flights

LD3101115893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 31 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sochi, 31 Jan—According to information from the staff of the operational group of the Russian state committee for emergency situations in Sochi, seven Russian helicopters carrying humanitarian aid for Tkvarcheli have left for Sukhumi after a forced landing in Gudauta. The Georgian Military Command in Sukhumi has granted permission for their flight.